



**REGISTRATION
IS OPEN!**
GoldenTicketAwards.com

June 2019 | Vol. 23 • Issue 3

www.amusementtoday.com

The 2019 season is underway!

► **TIGRIS**
See page 8



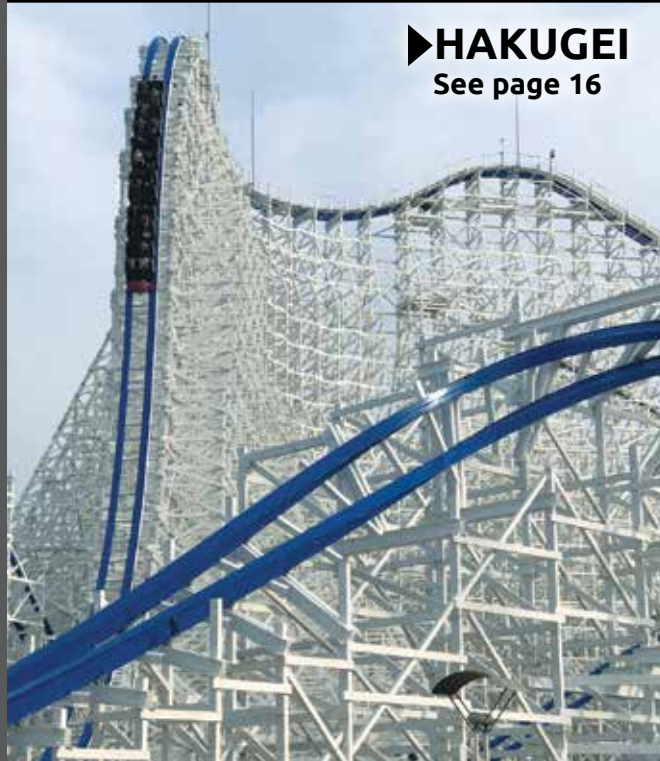
► **KENTUCKY FLYER**
See page 10



► **YUKON
STRIKER**
See page 12



► **HAKUGEI**
See page 16



► **KAREKARE CURL**
See page 32



► **CHANCE
ZIPPER**
See page 40



NEWSPAPER

POSTMASTER: Dated material.
PLEASE RUSH!
Mailed Tuesday, May 28, 2019

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GAINSVILLE, TX
PERMIT No. 55



AMUSEMENT VIEWS
Page 4



PARKS & FAIRS
Pages 6-28



WATER PARKS
Pages 29-36



BUSINESS
Pages 37-49



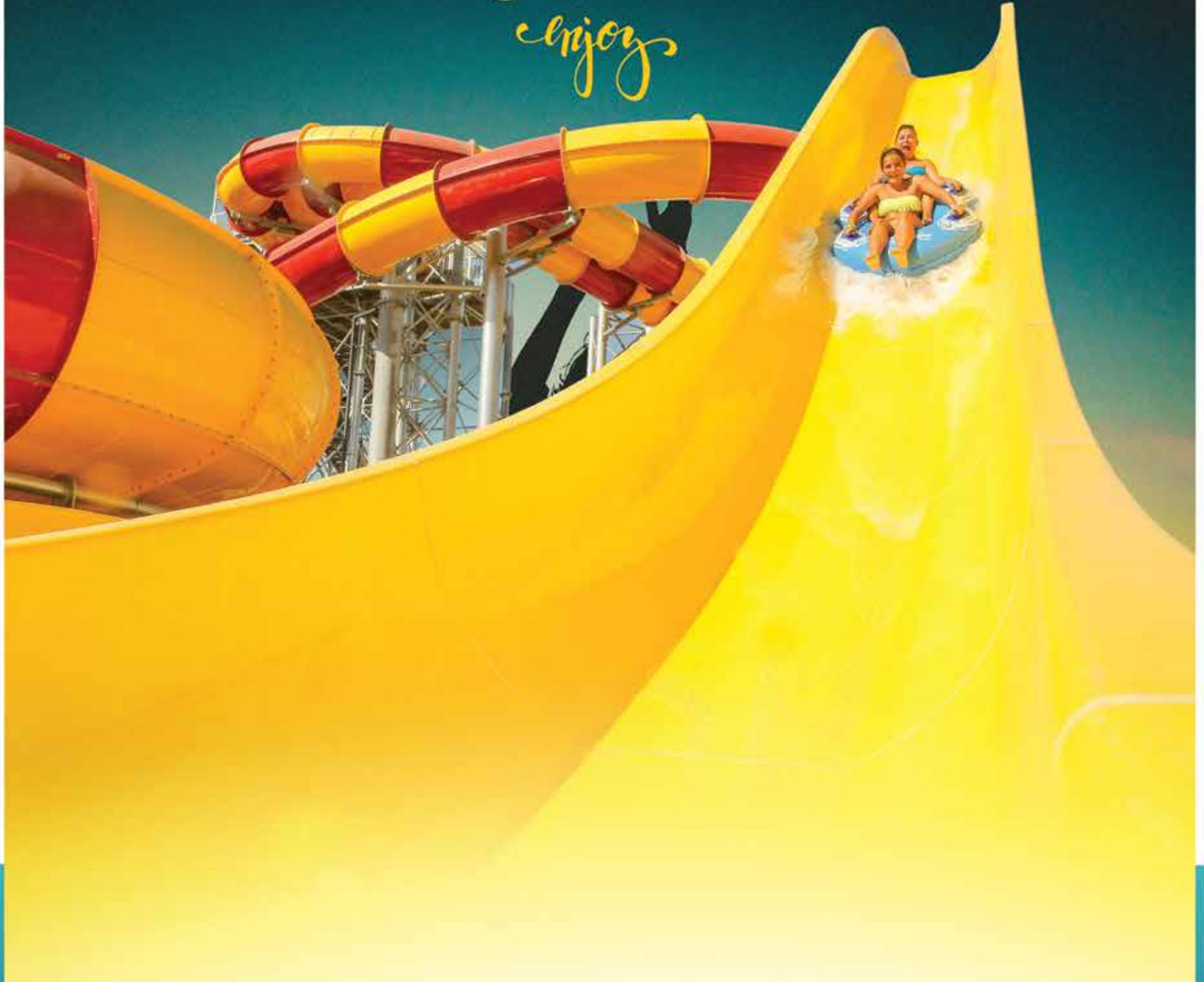
SAFETY
Pages 50-57



CLASSIFIEDS
Page 58

EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY


enjoy



Come & Meet us at
IAAPA Expo Asia
12-14 June 2019,
Shanghai, China
Booth #1442-1450



PolinWaterparks

polin.com.tr      polinwaterparks

Swirl-n-Twirl...
... on a Tilt-a-Whirl!



Family
fun that'll melt
your heart!



PO BOX 638 • PLAINVIEW, TEXAS 79072
(806) 293-1353 • LARSONINTL.COM



AMUSEMENT VIEWS

AT NOTEBOOK: Tim Baldwin, tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

The one place all visit



Baldwin

It might seem odd that of all topics one could pen an editorial on, the subject of bathrooms would even make the list. But let's face it. No matter what fantastic attractions any park has, the one place every guest visits is the bathroom.

That said, in the past years, I feel I have seen some of the nicest facilities in a park and some not so nice, just above prison.

When it comes down to budgets, what park wants to allocate expenses to bathrooms? Clever ones, actually.

Visits to Universal where the Harry Potter theming carries on into the public works sustains the sense of whimsy and wonder. Phantasialand's continuation of the ornate Klugeheim theming into the bathrooms is impressive. And for the gentlemen, strolling through the streets of Grimm's Enchanted Forest at Europa-Park is a hoot when ducking into a restroom and finding a gnome relieving himself in a miniature toilet. Attention to detail in all areas makes for a thoroughly memorable experience.

But if a theming budget isn't in the cards, simple things are. While cleanliness is — and should be — a given, every single park can also afford a couple cans of paint. As operators, take the challenge to walk in and first look at the bathroom doors. Are they bright and shiny, or do they look scratched, rusty or neglected? That one step is a good first one. Next, how are the walls? New paint can not only freshen them up, but the right color choices can achieve the simple result of tying in to the themed area in which the bathroom resides. A couple simple decorations can emphasize that. Are there holes where something once was? What signs, props or fixtures can disguise that in a refreshed way?

Since every guest is going to step into the restrooms, take the initiative to make sure they are not just clean, but pleasant to be in.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



GUEST OPINION: June Ko, Executive Director & V.P., IAAPA Asia Pacific Operations

IAAPA Expo Asia celebrates industry diversity, growth

The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) is excited to return to the beautiful city of Shanghai, China, this month for IAAPA Expo Asia 2019 (formerly Asian Attractions Expo). Attendees will experience an expanded education conference, more networking opportunities and the largest trade show floor in the event's history.

With more than 8,500 professionals from more than 60 countries coming together to buy, learn and network, the attractions industry's premier event in Asia takes place June 11-14 at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre.

The Asia-Pacific market is the fastest-growing region in our industry, and its continued strength will be reflected in the diverse products and services on display. More than 400 exhibiting companies will showcase and debut the latest innovations across a 13,000-net-square-meter, 34,500-gross-square-meter trade show floor. New this year will be a celebration of IAAPA Expo Asia exhibitors during award presentations recognizing their booth designs and displays.

A few highlights from this year's expo will



Ko

include the Leadership Breakfast featuring Joe Schott, president and general manager, Shanghai Disney Resort; and the Lunch and Learn session featuring Michael Croaker, head of entertainment, Village Roadshow Theme Parks. We are thrilled to have these industry veterans share their insights into leading successful teams at their respective organizations.

We are anticipating our strongest education program to date — taking place over four days of the conference. More than 10 general education sessions will feature 30-plus notable speakers from around the globe who will share their expertise on topics including safety, marketing plans, revenue operations, human resources, visual media technology and data mining. And IAAPA's exclusive EDUTours will take attendees to some of Shanghai's most popular destinations, such as Shanghai Disney Resort, Hello Kitty Shanghai Times and Shanghai Natural History Museum.

I'm truly looking forward to celebrating our diverse and dynamic industry in Shanghai — and discovering what's next for the global attractions industry and the growing Asia-Pacific region.

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the columnist(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.



Amusement Today is an independent, privately-owned trade newspaper published 14 times per year by Amusement Today Inc., P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005. Print issues are \$50 per year and are mailed Presort Standard Postage (permit No. 2069) Pre-Paid Fort Worth, Texas. The entire contents of this newspaper, and its related websites, are Copyrighted and Trademarked 2019 by Amusement Today Inc., all rights reserved.

Address: P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005-5427, USA

Deliveries: 2012 E. Randol Mill Road #203, Arlington, Texas 76011, USA

Phone: (817) 460-7220

Fax: (817) 265-NEWS (6397)

Websites: www.AmusementToday.com, www.GoldenTicketAwards.com

Call **(817) 460-7220** for advertising, circulation or editorial inquiries

Founder & Publisher

Gary Slade • (817) 460-7220 x3
gslade@amusementtoday.com

Accounting & Classified

Sammy Piccola • (817) 460-7220 x1
spiccola@amusementtoday.com

Assistant Office Manager, Circulation

Savannah Breen • (817) 460-7220 x5
sbreen@amusementtoday.com

Advertising

Sue Nichols • (615) 477-5432
snichols@amusementtoday.com

Editorial

Dean Lamanna • (817) 460-7220
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

Tim Baldwin • (972) 697-9745
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Jeffrey Seifert • (817) 460-7220 x4
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

B. Derek Shaw • (717) 843-3050
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

Pam Sherborne • (615) 308-3310
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Production Manager

John Robinson • (513) 256-1441
jrobinson@amusementtoday.com

Monthly Contributors

David Fake, Bubba Flint,
Lottie Minick, Richard Munch,
Janice Witherow

Association Memberships

ACE, AIMS International, ASTM, IAAPA, IISF,
IRT/iROC, NAARSO, NEAAPA, NJAA, OABA,
PAPA, PACE, SLA, TTIA, WWA

Industry Affiliated Charities

Give Kids the World Village, Morgan's Wonderland,
National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives



2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow

Rob Decker, R.A. Decker Design & Planning

Anyone who knows **Rob Decker** would describe him as passionate, creative, highly engaged and just downright fun. Recently retired from **Cedar Fair Entertainment Company**, where he spent 20 years as senior vice president of planning and design, Rob is now enjoying his own pace and doing some industry consulting through **R.A. Decker Design & Planning**, his personal upstart business. Rob is a master at strategic planning, industrial engineering and thematic/roller coaster and attraction design. If you have visited a Cedar Fair park in the last 20 years, you have seen Rob's amazing work. Note: I had the privilege of working with Rob when I was at Cedar Point as public relations manager, and he was one of my go-to people for everything. His knowledge and enthusiasm for the industry was always contagious; plus he's one of the good guys.

Title: Owner, R. A. Decker Design & Planning. Retired, SVP, Cedar Fair.

Number of years in the industry: 32.

Best thing about the industry: Creativity has no limit and this industry is flush.

Favorite amusement ride:

No. Nien! No favoritism here, no can do! That's like choosing between my children.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be ... Still engaged in architectural design and urban development projects.

Biggest challenge facing our industry

Staying relevant – always being better than amazing.

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is ...

Seeing the parks through the guests' eyes.

In retirement, I plan to ... Stay curious.

Favorite Cedar Fair memory:

Watching my team and their families grow.

I now hope to have more time to ...

Draw — everything.

The thing I will miss the most about the day-to-day Cedar Fair activity is ...

Talking with the guests, working with the team and learning from those experiences.

My favorite Cedar Fair project I worked on would have to be ... Gatekeeper – which was integrated with Cedar Point's new front gate to celebrate the guests' arrival. I am passionate about placemaking by ennobling and connecting the guest to a place of relevance.

In a word, I hope my legacy at Cedar Fair is ... "Passion" for the guests.

The last movie I watched was ...

"Platoon," my soul is drawn to Adagio for Strings, the opus of despair, reminding me that good must overcome.



During his tenure as Cedar Fair's Senior Vice President of Planning and Design, Rob Decker displayed a passion for creating memorable attractions for park guests. COURTESY ROB DECKER

Three things always in my refrigerator:

The beer I just crafted, Amish horseradish cheese (my catnip), and my other guilty pleasure (that is technically in the freezer) Graeter's black raspberry chocolate chip ice cream.

Pick one: relaxing on the beach or a camping adventure ... Oh snap, it's definitely the beach! We're building a new nest there.

Favorite place to nap: Nowhere. I can do a few things well, but napping isn't one of them #FOMO.

Wine, do you prefer red or white? Red! Preferably a recommendation from my friend Phil who has impeccable taste in Cali reds.

I last wore blue jeans ... At work.

Favorite cereal:

I'm more of an oatmeal guy, and any oatmeal that I can bury in brown sugar and raisins.

It is 10 p.m. Where would we typically find you? At a drawing table, or Manny's, my version of "Cheers."

My biggest worry is ... Now? My golf swing. It's unsafe for others and trees.

When it comes to mowing my yard, I ... Can't keep up with the neighbors.

The ideal Sunday morning consists of ...

Sunrise walk on the beach with my wife, making plans for the day.

The longest flight I have ever taken was ...

San Francisco to Orlando when I ended up in Madison, Wisc. Nice town, but I was "Bendered" by United for 25 hours. (Inside joke about the aforementioned wine connoisseur.)

THE INDUSTRY SEEN

There's no place like Broadway



NEW YORK, N.Y. — As a young girl, Dick Mason's daughter Ginna Claire Mason can be remembered riding around her father's booth at the IAAPA Attractions Expo, demonstrating the Mason Corporation's popular Roller Racer and Flying Turtle products. Now an adult, Ginna Claire Mason is demonstrating her own talents on the Broadway stage as she took over the role of Glinda in the New York production of *Wicked* beginning in April. In recent years, she was also featured in the touring companies of *Wicked*, *Newsies*, and *Flashdance the Musical*. COURTESY PLAYBILL/JOAN MARCUS

Dick Knoebel achieves latest honor: Octogenarian!



A crowd of 250 family members, staff and friends from all over the country made their way to the Pine Barn Inn, Danville, Pa., on the last Sunday in April. The occasion? A surprise birthday party for Dick Knoebel, Knoebels Amusement Resort, in celebration of his 80th birthday. There were numerous roasts, toasts and imbibing reveling his eight decades. AT/RICHARD MUNCH



At left, Will Morey (left) and Jack Morey (right), Morey's Piers, roast Dick (center) during the celebratory evening. At right, attending (l to r): Clair Hain, Great Coasters International; Kelly and Bob Dean, Leisure Labs, LLC. AT/RICHARD MUNCH



The Knoebel's clan took a few minutes out of the celebration to pose for a family picture. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Tigris pounces — page 8 / Kentucky Flyer debuts — page 10 / Kaleidoscope dark ride unveiled — page 15

San Antonio Zoo steps in to preserve, relocate Kiddie Park

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — “We were looking for solutions,” said **Brent Conger**, co-owner of **Kiddie Park**.

In a city full of world-renowned attractions, the small family park had quietly entertained youngsters and their parents since 1925. For close to a century, children could ride some vintage industry classics, work their way through a hot dog and fried pickles or take a relaxing whirl on a Herschell-Spillman hand-carved carousel. The shaded park was a welcome respite for generations. In 2009, the park underwent a big renovation with the new leadership.

Located on Broadway Street adjacent to the city’s Brackenridge Park, the owners soon found the small park was feeling encroached upon. When the park sold birthday party packages, families found it challenging to find places to park. The area was thriving, but that came at an expense to the convenience of enjoying Kiddie Park.

The nearby **San Antonio Zoo** in Brackenridge Park became aware of Kiddie Park’s concerns. The zoo owners saw continued development pinching in on the beloved landmark and felt a calling to step in and save the park. The co-owners of



Kiddie Park has been in operation in San Antonio since 1925. The park operated through Memorial Day weekend as spring is often a heavy season for birthday parties. Currently the San Antonio Zoo operates a train ride (bottom right) and a carousel. AT/GARY SLADE; COURTESY SAN ANTONIO ZOO

the park met with the zoo’s top brass and looked to finding the answer to preserve Kiddie Park. In April, it was announced that the children’s park would be moved to the San Antonio Zoo.

“San Antonio is like a small town. Everyone knows everybody,” said **Tim Morrow**, CEO, San Antonio Zoo. “**Rad Weaver** bought [Kiddie Park] in 2009 and fixed it up. He came to me one day and said, ‘I’m getting squeezed out over there.’ There’s been a lot of development.”

Weaver inquired if the San Antonio Zoo might have a plausible solution. Fortunately, it did. The new location will be on the zoo’s footprint near the education center, but not within the zoo’s

gates that would require the purchase of a zoo ticket to enjoy the rides. It will be located on the east side of the city park in a beautiful setting next to the river.

“It’s been a great ride so far — buying the park in 2009 and operating it at the level we wanted — but this will be such a great opportunity for our customers,” said Weaver. “The parking and walkability will be much better. The zoo has tremendous traffic already, some of which are aware of Kiddie Park, but some that aren’t. Exposing the Kiddie Park experience to a broader audience is exciting.”

“This was a great fit to help save Kiddie Park,” said Conger. For close to a century, Kiddie Park sat on one square acre. Morrow reported that the San Antonio Zoo had about 20 of its 50 acres undeveloped.

“We’re finalizing our master plan to develop the zoo property out. We’re working on what the 15-20 other acres could be,” said Morrow. “We found a spot that is about .8 of an acre, it is on the perimeter of the zoo and has the trees like Kiddie Park had. We want to bring over that feel to the new location.”

The location being used is adjacent to the Education Center, so restroom facilities, ticket windows, food options,



etc. are already in place.

“Most of our rides are very old, so we are constantly painting and refurbishing,” said Weaver. “We’ll do a little of that when we [disassemble] and put them back together.”

After operating at the Broadway location since 1925, the last day for guests to enjoy one last visit at its original home is July 4. After that, the process of relocating and establishing new roots adjacent to the zoo will begin with the goal of reopening this summer.

Currently, the zoo property operates a train and a carousel. Morrow feels the additional rides will be a great complement to rides in place.

“We want everybody to know that Kiddie Park is not going to change,” said **Hope Roth**, VP of marketing and communication, San Antonio Zoo. “We are trying to keep that integ-

city. All the memories people have had from their childhood will still be available for their children and grandchildren.”

The move will not only increase parking availability but also access for those with disabilities.

Kiddie Park staff will be able to continue their positions at the new location.

“I really have an appreciation for this city, and this city is one that really embraces its history well,” Morrow told *Amusement Today*. “I really feel it is an honor to be a part of saving the park. The zoo is a 105-year-old institution for many generations. San Antonio lost **Playland Park** many years ago, and I still hear people talking about it. We couldn’t let Kiddie Park go away. It’s such a central location for all the community of San Antonio. The zoo is the perfect place for it to stay.”



The preserved Herschell-Spillman Carousel (above left) dates back to 1918. Among the selection of rides being moved are some extremely rare children’s rides (above right).

AT/GARY SLADE



IRG
Intermark Ride Group

- Gosetto
- Moser Rides
- RES-WillTec
- Used Rides
- Wattman Trains

www.intermarkridegroup.com
TEL 615.370.9625



Gosetto Dark Ride



Moser Giant Wheel 55 Mt



RES-WillTec Flume

Playland PNE opens new ride for 2019, shutter another

AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

VANCOUVER, B.C., — Officials at Playland amusement park at the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) in Vancouver, B.C., opened their latest new attraction last month and closed another, all part of a long-term development plan.

The grounds opened in May for weekend operations and began full time activities in June. A brand new Zamperla-manufactured swing ride called the Sea-to-Sky-Swinger greeted guests while the park's Corkscrew steel coaster, manufactured by Vekoma, has ceased operation and is up for sale.

While the Corkscrew coaster has been a popular attraction and some visitors may be disappointed about the change, Playland and PNE spokesperson Laura Ballance said that move was a part of the improvement plans at Hastings Park from the beginning.

Hastings Park is home to Playland and the annual PNC. The PNC board of directors, which is appointed by the City of Vancouver, operates the city-owned park.

"Plans are to expand the Playland park in size from 15 acres to 22," Ballance said. "It is transitioning from an amusement park into a greener, more sustainable expanded theme park."

The footprint of the Corkscrew geographically on the grounds is the location from which the expansion will launch.

"We are just now in the costing phase and then will move to a fuller design stage," Ballance said. "We hope to be able to release more details in late 2019 or in 2020."

The expansion will incorporate more green space, new extensively themed areas and a



Playland amusement park at the Pacific National Exhibition, Vancouver, B.C., opened full operations this month. Under a long-term development and expansion plan, officials there have been installing new rides over the past years and making other changes. COURTESY PLAYLAND

wide variety of new rides and attractions. Reports have shown officials would like to start the expansion and improvement in 2022 and be complete by 2028.

Playland's signature attraction, the Playland Wooden Coaster, will remain. Designed by Carl Phare and Walker LeRoy, it was built in 1958.

The new ride opened just in time for the opening of the 2019 season. The British Columbia-themed Sea-to-Shining-Sea stands a little more than 43 feet tall and has a rider capacity of 64. It reaches speeds of 11 rpm and spins counter-clockwise.

The Corkscrew coaster will remain where it is on the grounds until it is sold, but will not operate. It has a track length of 2,400 feet and reaches a height of 75 feet with drops of up to 68 feet.

Heading toward the overall plan for the park, officials have refurbished some rides and installed other new ones over the years.

In 2018, significant improvements were made to several rides including the Playland Wooden

Coaster. That coaster was built throughout 1957 and 1958. The coaster's maximum height is 75 feet and the track length is 3,300 feet. Ride time is 90 seconds and each of the three trains has a rider capacity of 16. The maximum speed is 45 mph and it rides an average of 500,000 guests annually.

Other recent new rides include: in 2017, Flutterbye, manufactured by Zamperla, and Bug Whirled by SBF Visa Group; in 2016, Balloon Explorers and Teacups, both by Zamperla; in 2015, the Beast pendulum ride by KMG, and in 2014, Rock-N-Cars by Majestic.

The Playland renewal is an important component of a master plan that will also expand all of Hastings Park. That plan will provide the annual PNE with much-needed event and festival infrastructure.

The PNE 2019 dates are Aug. 15-Sept. 2. All of Playland is open during that time. The fair midway is provided by West Coast Amusements.

•pne.ca/playland



In time for the 2019 opening of Playland, guests were greeted to a new ride, a Zamperla swing ride called Sea-to-Sky-Swinger. COURTESY PLAYLAND



"I Like Scary Movies" reinterprets scenes from horror / fantasy films, including *Beetlejuice* and *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. It's the creation of experiential artist Maximillian (below, with his wife, executive producer Robyn Snodgrass). COURTESY "I LIKE SCARY MOVIES"; AT/DEAN LAMANNA



'Scary Movies' a bracing mix of interactive art, wit

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LOS ANGELES — Horror film mavens, especially those in Southern California, think they've seen it all when it comes to live fright-genre presentations such as Knott's Scary Farm and Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights. And that's something of which "I Like Scary Movies," a new interactive art installation, seems keenly aware.

The 25,000-square foot presentation at The Desmond, a historic building on Wilshire Boulevard in L.A.'s Miracle Mile district, eschews easy funhouse scares, flashy strobe effects and in-your-face costume characters with please-touch-me-if-you-dare detail, multisensory creepiness and social media-friendly staging — lacing it all with surprising wit. It opened in early April and is scheduled to run through June 16 before going on tour.

The display offers striking interpretations of iconic scenes from five horror / fantasy movies produced by Warner Bros. and New Line Cinema: *Beetlejuice* (Netherworld waiting room), *It* (Pennywise's sewer lair), *The Lost Boys* (railroad bridge vampire hangout), *A Nightmare on Elm Street* (Freddy Krueger boiler room) and *The Shining* (bloody elevator hallway). And unlike most haunt attractions, it encourages participants to sidle up to and step inside the "props" — in effect, inviting them to help shape the experience.

Wonder what it's like to be caught in the grip of Freddy's finger knives? You'll find yourself encaged by them here.

"I Like Scary Movies" is the brainchild of locally based experiential artist Maximillian, with his wife, Robyn Snodgrass, executive-producing through their company, Ultra Prods. It taps into its creator's 20-year history of making multimedia promotional and entertainment installations for the likes of Comic-Con, Marvel Entertainment, Pixar, Walt Disney Pictures and his current collaborator, Warner Bros. Consumer Products.

The artist considers his exhibit "3D fan art."

"I've always loved illustrated fan art," said Maximillian, who admitted to spending a good part of his youth building backyard haunted houses. "Our goal was to create an experience where fans could take their time to engage with the fantastical worlds of scary movies that have shaped their fandom. We want them to be able to take a deep creative dive into some of their favorite movies in a way that is fun, engaging, artistic and memorable — allowing them to really explore and enjoy the thrill of it all."

•ilikescarymoviesexperience.com

Premier Rides' Tigris pounces, dominates Tampa Bay skyline

AT: David Fake
Special to Amusement Today

TAMPA, Fla. — **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay** invited thrill-seekers to “take on Tigris” when it opened its new **Premier Rides, Inc.** triple launch roller coaster on April 19. The coaster currently holds the title of Florida’s tallest launch coaster.

Tigris utilizes electromagnetic linear synchronous motors (LSMs) to launch its single train, which holds 18 riders, forward, backward, then forward again as it gains momentum for a 62 mph 90 degree skyward surge 150 feet upward before taking its riders through an inverted heartline roll, non-inverting looping twists, and multiple daring drops, as it races along more than 1,800 feet of tiger-orange steel track, mimicking the awe-inspiring agility of the tiger, the world’s most powerful cat.

“We are proud of the legacy we’ve built as we have welcomed millions of thrill-seekers from around the world to the Tampa Bay area,” said **Stewart Clark**, president of Busch Gardens Tampa Bay and **Adventure Island**. “Tigris is the perfect addition to our unrivaled collection of adrenaline-pumping attractions.” Clark explained to *AT* that soon after arriving at Busch Gardens two years ago, he was presented with the opportunity to add a Premier Rides launch coaster to the park’s collection of rides. He and **Andrew Shaffer**, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay’s director of design and engineering and Tigris project manager, spent a lot of time scouring the park looking for the perfect setting. “I did not like the wall that was



Above, Tigris launches from the trees to the sky near Sheikra. The twisting dive (right) is one of the many thrills that await on the Premier Rides coaster.

COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA; AT/DAVID FAKE

erected around Tanganyika Tidal Wave (1989) after it was permanently closed in 2016, and Andrew said it was the perfect location for the new attraction. He had an immediate vision for how it would fit in. We then set out to determine the theming and realized that the Tiger was underrepresented on the conservation front. We knew immediately we had found the right setting and theme for the attraction,” he said.

Two years after the ride, location, and theming were decided, Tigris joins Stanley Falls flume (1973) and Sheikra (2005) to fill out the Stanleyville themed area of the park. As Clark and Shaffer envisioned, the new coaster took advantage of the former site of

Tanganyika Tidal Wave, which itself had borrowed much of its waterway from its predecessor, The African Queen Boat Ride (1973), and expertly repurposes portions of the former rides’ concrete boat troughs and caves by using them as the pathway for Tigris’ queue. “We have worked on this project for a little over two years [a timeframe which included the removal of Tanganyika Tidal Wave], paying very close attention to how we could make the ride fit into the footprint of the area and utilize preexisting features of the previous attraction,” Andre Shaffer informed *AT*. We are very proud of what we were able to do with the space and what we have accomplished,” he said.

Tigris is the ninth coaster in Busch Gardens Tampa Bay’s collection, joining Cobra’s Curse (2016),

Cheetah Hunt (2011), Air Grover (2010), Sheikra, Sand Serpent (2004), Montu (1996), Kumba (1993), and Scorpion (1980). Coincidentally, Tigris is also Premier Rides’ ninth installation of its Sky Rocket II model launch coaster, three of which reside in the **SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment** chain. And while these models are identical, they are creating a lot of internet buzz among industry, park, and coaster enthusiast. **Nick Papavizas**, project engineer for Premier Rides, who was on hand for the opening of Tigris, expressed his pride in the ride, and mused that he enjoys keeping an eye on park-goer and enthusiast posts. “I love what I do, and I love the rides we create. It’s fun to see the great reviews and coaster comparisons, especially for the identical rides, because there is something unique about each one, even if only the theming.”

Even with the Tigris project completed and Busch Gardens Tampa Bay’s 60th Celebration already well underway, Clark and Shaffer are not kicking back and taking a breather. They both expressed their excitement to fully focus on the 2020 project, a **Rocky Mountain Construction** (RMC) wood/steel hybrid coaster, on the grounds of and repurposing portions of the defunct dueling wooden coaster, Gwazi



(1999). Clark hinted that a 2021 attraction has already been selected and is well into the planning stages. He said, “We have taken a step back and reconsidered our previous model of adding a new major attraction every four to five years and has committed to adding attractions each year for the foreseeable future.” He promises that year 61 will be even grander and more thrilling than its diamond anniversary year for Busch Gardens Tampa Bay.

• buschgardens.com/tampa



Tigris riders enjoy the Busch Gardens Tampa landscaping surround the coaster. The ride and its queue repurpose much of the theming from Tanganyika Tidal Wave (right).

AT/DAVID FAKE



Tigris features an inversion at its 150 foot apex.

AT/DAVID FAKE

Florida's Tallest Launch Coaster

CONGRATULATIONS BUSCH GARDENS TAMPA BAY ON THE SUCCESSFUL OPENING OF TIGRIS!

Busch
Gardens
TAMPA BAY, FL

SEAWORLD PARKS
& ENTERTAINMENT



Premier Rides is honored to be a part of SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment's formula for success.



PREMIER RIDES
INSPIRE. CREATE. ENTERTAIN.
WWW.PREMIER-RIDES.COM | INFO@PREMIER-RIDES.COM

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Kentucky Kingdom soars with new Gravity Group family coaster

Kentucky Flyer debuts as only new-for-2019 North American wooden coaster

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Three decades after Ed Hart became a principal figure in Kentucky Kingdom's history, his ideas are still being realized to bring an ever-growing audience to the Louisville thrill park. Since he and his team have brought the park back from closure (twice!) from previous operators, Hart has kept an eye out for what will target the needs of the park's clientele. As a non-rider himself due to motion sickness, Hart hasn't shied away from installing noteworthy attractions that are signature rides for Kentucky Kingdom.

After a successful relaunch of the park again in 2014, Kentucky Kingdom has introduced new coasters in this short span. Looping and high-speed thrillers are complemented by a children's coaster. In Hart's view, something seemed to be missing — something in between.

Hart turned to **The Gravity Group** for the park's next coaster, a family-sized wooden coaster. While the coaster com-



The Kentucky Flyer becomes a new backdrop for the Hurricane Bay water park. Riders of all ages plunge down the first drop (right). AT/TIM BALDWIN



pany has built extreme wooden coasters, it has also found a new groove in designing mid-sized rides that meet a family audience. The first was Wooden Warrior at Quassy Amusement Park in Connecticut. This latest, Kentucky Flyer, is the company's fourth such ride.

"I knew I wanted this type of ride because it's the perfect combination of 'thrilling' and 'family.' The 40-inch height requirement for 'co-pilots'

allows all but the youngest members of the family to enjoy the ride together," said Hart. "What better memory of a visit to a theme park could a kid have than the experience of his or her first roller coaster ride? That's a memory for a lifetime!"

Chad Miller, engineer and principal, The Gravity Group, agreed. "My nine-year-old is just getting comfortable riding our rides. She loves this one. She wanted to ride [more] but the

rain wouldn't let us run it longer at the media opening," he said.

Michael Graham, engineer and principal, The Gravity Group, also took his youngest daughter on Kentucky Flyer, her first foray into her father's work. "It was really special to me," he said. "I was glad to see her smiling at the end of the ride, so it was a success. She's kind of fearless. All three of my daughters loved it. It's kind of a brand-new product for that park."

This kid-approved aspect speaks to the essence of Kentucky Flyer.

"I didn't have to give The Gravity Group team much direction," Hart told *Amusement Today*. "I simply asked them to 'make me a Wooden Warrior' — and boy, did they! The coaster has surpassed our expectations, as evidenced by the terrific reviews we received from the

► See FLYER, page 11

Every smile starts with one BIG Idea....

- MARKETING
- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- PRESS RELEASES
- TV PRODUCTION
- RADIO PRODUCTION
- PROMOTIONS
- PRINTING

WILLIAM H. ROBINSON, INC.

The Big Idea People!

513.737.9012 • www.TheBigIdeaPeople.com



The coaster's layout cuts through a berm (left) at the park boundary. Flying terms are seen in both the queue (middle) and cleverly marketed on souvenir apparel (right). AT/TIM BALDWIN; JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

► FLYER

Continued from page 11

coaster enthusiasts who joined us for the ride's unveiling at our media/VIP event. Our social media platforms lit up!"

"In terms of our family-style rides, Kentucky Flyer is our only out and back," said Miller. "From that standpoint, it is something different. We were able to concentrate on the airtime. Other than the turn-around, all the other curves are just quick directional changes. It's a whole different pacing."

"The name preceded the theme," said Hart. "I had to work backward from the name and ask myself, what should a Kentucky Flyer look like?"

An image of a World War II fighter plane popped into my head. I actually wanted to put decals on the body of the plane mimicking the old WWII pin-up girls, which pilots frequently used to adorn their planes. But after checking in with my trusted advisors in sales, guest services, and administration, I got a resounding 'no' from the younger women among them. And at the Kingdom, we always listen to our women ... or else! All kidding aside, I actually drew a rough version of the Kentucky Flyer logo about three years ago after visiting Quassy Amusement Park and checking out the Wooden Warrior. Our graphic design team then refined the logo."

Upon approach to the station, riders see aviation terms on signage: Turbulence, Elevation and Velocity. These terms are also cleverly mimicked on T-shirts at a nearby gift shop relating the words to coaster stats. The fronts of the trains are sculpted to whimsically resemble a classic fighter plane.

After a 47-foot climb, a slight jog sends the 12-passenger trains on a 44-foot drop, reaching a top speed of 35 mph. The zippy layout along the edge of the property delivers 12 pops of airtime over its numerous hills. Track length is 1,288 feet.

"On the return run, the four hills keep getting progressively lower and lower," said Miller. "As you come home, you feel

like you are picking up speed. Two really larger airtime hills are right at the end before you hit the brake run."

"The coaster not only fills in the gap in terms of coasters, but also the skyline," said Graham.

The coaster runs along the southeastern border of the park, making for a great backdrop to the water park. In its design, The Gravity Group had to work with a berm that was created from digging pools for the water park and old footers from a relocated coaster. The thought process was that the created berm blocked the view of a back parking lot. A path was dug out through the berm for the new ride.

"The berm was kind of a big topic in the early discus-

sion," said Miller. "Ed Hart was concerned if we went behind the berm, would we block the view of the ride? We went out there with helium balloons to different parts of where the ride would be and sent balloons up to a certain height of where the coaster would be. He went to different parts of the water park to see. He was very concerned with the sightlines. The berm will go down in infamy."

"It's a perfect ride for that park, to have a thrill ride at that level," said Graham. "This is also one of the bigger parks to introduce this 'middle' ride. At the other parks, it was a signature ride as the whole park was designed for younger guests. Here, this really filled that hole."





FAMILY THRILLS START AT ONLY 40 INCHES

Now flying at Kentucky Kingdom in Louisville, Kentucky



THE GRAVITY GROUP
wooden roller coaster experts

P.O. Box 62050
Cincinnati, OH, USA 45262
phone: +1 513.948.8400
fax: +1 513.948.8420
www.thegravitygroup.com




Bolliger & Mabillard supplies third monster coaster for Ontario park

Yukon Striker anchors new themed area at Canada's Wonderland

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

VAUGHAN, Ontario — When **Canada's Wonderland** opened for the 2019 season on May 3, the park's latest coaster added a new giant addition to the park's skyline. Yukon Striker is a **Bolliger and Mabillard** record-breaking dive coaster.

It is the third time the park has turned to B&M. In 2008, Behemoth made a huge statement as visitors arrived at the park. It's 200-plus feet of height stood beautifully along the entrance drive lake. Four years later, Leviathan was unleashed, claiming B&M's first venture above 300 feet. Yukon Striker has boasting rights as the company's largest dive coaster ever built — 223 feet with a 245-foot, below-ground-level drop.

"The ride on Yukon Striker is absolutely breathtaking," said General Manager **Norm Pirtovshek**. "At its summit, you experience three seconds of complete exhilaration as you stare directly down 245 feet at 90 degrees into an underwater tunnel."

"Nothing beats that hanging there in the front row," agreed **Grace Peacock**, director of communications. "Your feet are dangling in the air over what looks like a little tunnel from up there. Your heart is in your throat. It's the best."



Yukon Striker is the third B&M coaster at Canada's Wonderland. All three exceed 200 feet. Four inversions set a record for a B&M dive coaster. COURTESY CANADA'S WONDERLAND

The decision to go with a B&M dive coaster wasn't a difficult one, said **Brian Witherow**, chief financial officer, **Cedar Fair**. "B&M has long been a great partner for Cedar Fair when it comes to iconic, world-class coasters. On top of that, with the success of Valravn at Cedar Point, we knew firsthand the kind of response we could expect from guests at Canada's Wonderland with the addition of Yukon Striker. It will definitely be a huge hit for the 2019 season and round out that park's collection of world-class thrills."

Yukon Striker is the

showpiece of a new immersive area called Frontier Canada, which is themed to the Klondike Gold Rush. The architecture and theming of rides is now cohesive in this area, which includes three new food outlets and a new merchandise shop (Klondike Outfitters), as well as the eight rides in the area.

"Frontier Canada was supposed to be one of the original five sections when the park opened in 1981," said Peacock. "It's now being brought in to its rightful place. It was delayed in 1981 and intended to come along, but it never hap-

pened. We have some old concept books and drawings of the buildings that were supposed to be there. It's really neat now to see that all these years later we are able to bring that to life. We're really connecting to our roots."

Peacock reports that the park is taking numerous steps to go back to the original theming in terms of names of attractions and area concepts. One of these is the park's new mascot for the Frontier Canada area.

"His name is Major McKenzie. He is a Royal Canadian Mountie and actually a character brought back from the early years of Canada's Wonderland," said Peacock. "We brought him back a couple of years ago for our Celebration Canada event. Now that we have the new themed area, we decided Frontier Canada is his home."

Planning on the project began as far back as 2014. The park broke ground on the coaster site in January 2018, so the construction process was close to 16 months. Coaster construction went vertical as of last August. Yukon Striker makes use of land formerly occupied by a retired TOGO standup coaster.

As the third coaster at the park to surpass 200 feet, Yukon Striker also boasts other records for the dive coaster genre — 3,265 feet



of track, making it the longest, and four inversions, the most on any B&M dive coaster, besting Valravn's three. It is also the first B&M dive coaster to feature a vertical loop. As with all coasters of this type, the signature move is the hold brake at the top of the 90-degree vertical drop where riders stare straight down as they are teased with the upcoming plunge.

Each of the three trains seat 24 riders in three rows. An hourly capacity is estimated at 1,310 riders.

Giant coasters are big investments. "Because of the cost of major coasters like Yukon Striker, the decision to invest in rides like this isn't something we go into lightly," Witherow told *Amusement Today*. "Investments like this need to move the needle in terms of attendance, revenues and profit, and that needs to happen immediately. Our confidence in adding Yukon Striker is underscored by the sizeable gains in attendance, revenues and profits we've generated from past investments in coasters like Behemoth and Leviathan."

The gigantic coaster isn't the only significant investment for 2019. In November, Canada's Wonderland will be the latest Cedar Fair park to introduce Winterfest, an annual Christmas festival.

•canadaswonderland.com



Yukon Striker's initial plunge (left) drops 245 people feet into an underground tunnel. Following a momentary pause, 24 riders at a time plunge 90 degrees (right).

COURTESY CANADA'S WONDERLAND

We continue to serve the
Amusement Entertainment Business Community!

AERIA
AMUSEMENT ENTERTAINMENT RISK INSURANCE ASSOCIATES

JKJ | JOHNSON
KENDALL
JOHNSON

amusemententertainmentrisk.com

Gene Berger 215.579.6487
Rick D'Aprile 215.579.6488



Knott's Berry Farm relaunches revamped, rethemed water ride

Garner Holt creates new characters for Calico River Rapids

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

BUENA PARK, Calif. — A new expedition into uncharted territory awaits eager guest explorers at **Knott's Berry Farm** this summer.

Calico River Rapids, located in the park's famous Ghost Town, opened to the public May 17. It reimagines the former Bigfoot Rapids (a 1987 **Intamin** white water raft ride) as an extension of the storyline about the section established with the refurbishing of the park's two **Bud Hurlbut**-designed legacy attractions: Calico Mine Ride (1960) and Timber Mountain Log Ride (1969).

Through a combination of themed show scenes (nine in all), animatronics and dynamic water effects, the ride takes voyagers in six-passenger circular rafts on a search for new land through the outskirts of Calico, where they encounter various wild surprises — such as roaring rapids, indigenous wildlife and a hair-trigger pioneer homesteader, not to mention the “Bigfoot” promised by (but never quite delivered) by the attraction's earlier incarnation.

Calico River Rapids serves up the backstory of Ghost Town, revealing how it came to be during the expansion of the Western territories, which were largely untouched by civilization. Voyagers will see evidence of the Calico Mine Co. and Timber Mountain Logging Co. at work in the wilderness about 15-20 years before the rest of Ghost Town is built.

The river course has been mapped by the Potts & Colter Trading Post and Expedition Co., named after its founders John Potts and John Colter, members of the **Lewis and Clark Expedition**. The duo rents out rafts and sells



This scene of an early Calico River settlement, complete with a fox in a henhouse and a coyote howling nearby, is part of the new Ghost Town backstory presented by the reimagined ride. AT/DEAN LAMANNA

supplies to would-be settlers looking to explore the territories, which are said to be inhabited by a mysterious creature.

The ride's animated figures, both animal and human, were created by Redlands, Calif.-based **Garner Holt Productions, Inc.**, a longtime Knott's collaborator. The company helped develop the Calico River Rapids narrative and was instrumental in the overhaul of the park's character-packed mine and log flume rides.

Something big afoot

During the Calico River Rapids media preview on May 16, **Ken Parks**, vice president of entertainment for Knott's, told *Amusement Today* that he saw an opportunity to not only to extend the Ghost Town storyline, but to “right some wrongs” that had bothered him ever since he first visited Bigfoot Rapids.

“I was a theme park geek very early, and I remember coming to ride Bigfoot Rapids the summer it opened,” said Parks, who has spent more than two decades working both full-time and as a consultant for the likes of **Disney** and **Universal**

Studios in addition to Knott's. “After all the setup in the ride's queue — *There's a broken cage... are we going to see Sasquatch?* — you went around the river course and into a cave that wasn't quite a cave, but looked a little like a sewer pipe. And there's no Sasquatch.”

He couldn't help but take the beast's inexplicable no-show personally.

“As a kid, I was obsessed with Sasquatch,” he said. “I lived in the California's Central Valley, and we grew up in the foothills of the Sequoia National Forest, so everybody had a Sasquatch story. I was terrified and also fascinated by this.”

According to Parks, an interim version of the attraction's theming some time ago reportedly had a static bust of Bigfoot, but the fur got matted from the water and it apparently was removed after a couple months.

“At a certain point over the years, it had even lost the Sasquatch story and become an amusement ride that you'd just get on and get wet,” he said. “We have one of the greatest themed lands in the history of theme parks right here, and we had this attraction that could have a story created around it that could make it more family friendly. There was an opportunity to connect it with the Calico Mine Ride and Timber Mountain flume in the same universe.”

Moreover, Parks pointed out, this newly expanded universe can extend further to the evolving daily storyline of Ghost Town Alive! — the interactive, costume character-energized Old West adventure he helped launch for the park's 75th anniversary and which has returned to Knott's this summer.

Mechanical menagerie
With his company having



created more than 120 new animatronic characters for the three major Ghost Town attractions, **Garner Holt** laughed when *AT* suggested at the preview that his company has virtually populated the entire village of Calico.

“That's really true,” he said, noting the importance of adhering to both period detail and the visual connectivity between the animatronic players. “People live here — they go to work in the mine and they go to work logging. So this whole community has to have continuity.”

As with the live actors in Ghost Town, the animatronics, Holt said, must also display distinct personalities.

“There's a little bear in Calico River Rapids kind of playing whack-a-mole with some groundhogs while the mother bear is catching a fish. The trapper, well, he's not happy that you're invading his space, and his trigger finger is a little loose. They all have an intent and a purpose, and an attitude. It enhances the storyline and the show.”

The creative team at Knott's, he added, usually seeks his company's input in developing concepts and vignettes for the animatronic characters.

With most of the new Calico River Rapids figures being positioned outdoors and exposed to the elements, Holt's crew had to use more fiberglass in the sculpting and molding as well as UV-resistant paint for the finishing touches — except for the Sasquatch, which, being housed inside a cave, could get by with synthetic fur resistant to moisture.

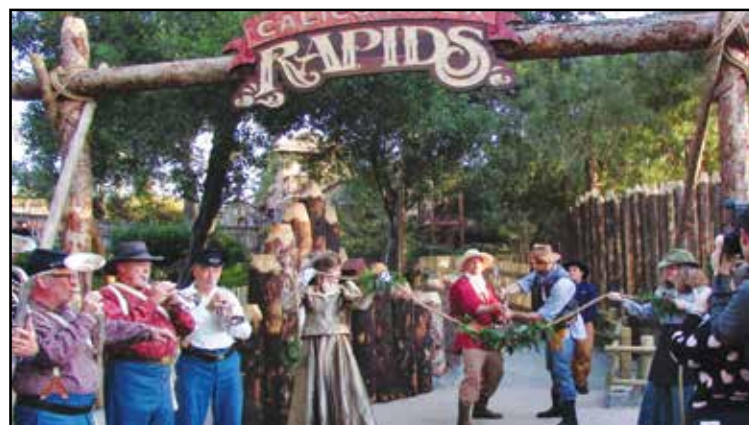
The scary, bellowing creature exemplifies the looser, edgier fun Knott's is known to have with its offerings.

“We have theme park neighbors who have access to huge IP [intellectual property],” said Ken Parks. “We don't have those resources, so we create our own. And it's nice to be in a time when Knott's Berry Farm has shifted to theme and story — recognizing its roots and the nostalgia people have for it.”

•knotts.com



A large bear, one of more than 20 new animatronic figures within several themed scenes along the banks of the Calico River, catches a salmon for dinner. COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM



Adventurers John Potts and John Colter “axed” the ribbon at the ride's May 16 media preview. AT/DEAN LAMANNA

Elitch Gardens opens innovative Kaleidoscope dark ride from Meow Wolf

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

DENVER, Colo. — **Elitch Gardens** embraces the art world with its new out-of-the-box dark ride. Retrofitting a previously themed **Ghost Blasters** dark ride from **Sally Corp.**, Elitch's worked in conjunction with **Meow Wolf** to create a ride experience unique to anything else ever seen.

One description says: Riders use semi-quantum technology to bring the environment to life as they help a tiny point of light in its journey to become a planet-sized hyper being.

The average layman might grasp something less cosmic: Meow Wolf's Kaleidoscope is a dark ride that simulates an imaginative psychedelic trip through colorful images and whimsical scenes.

To get a better feel for what has transpired, it is best to understand the concept of Santa Fe-based Meow Wolf and its purpose. Certified as a Benefit Corporation, Meow Wolf is an art collective comprised of more than 400 employees who support and create art using a variety of media. Architecture, painting, video production, virtual reality, music and performance are just some of the avenues the artists have approached. Now add to that amusement rides.

This isn't the first foray into amusement attractions for the eclectic team of millennial artists. **The House of Eternal Return** was the group's first permanent installation, which went on to win a THEA award in 2017. It was supported by *Game of Thrones* creator, **George R.R. Martin**. Meow Wolf will also be a principal tenant at the new **Area15** entertainment experience being developed in Las Vegas. [See AT May 2019] More permanent experiences are being built for the city of Denver and Washington D.C.

The new dark ride was ready and welcoming guests to Elitch Gardens on April 20, the park's open-



The art collective Meow Wolf created an incredibly sensory dark ride experience. Kaleidoscope reimagines a former Ghost Blasters dark ride in a new imaginative way. COURTESY ELITCH GARDENS

ing day. In addition to the Meow Wolf's team of artists, Elitch's also had seven Denver-based artists contribute to Kaleidoscope.

"We were excited when our first guests came off and described it as an immersive, overwhelming experience," said **Layne Pitcher**, director of marketing, Elitch Gardens.

With the new Meow Wolf location coming to Denver (in 2020), Elitch Gardens and the artist enclave will soon be next-door neighbors. This led to the collaboration that brought about Kaleidoscope.

"With their move to Denver, we started talking," Pitcher told *Amusement Today*. "The idea for the ride started to percolate. They had been thinking about how cool it would be to do a ride for a long time, so when the opportunity came along, it was a no-brainer for both of us."

In its current iteration, the dark ride vehicles with blasters no longer create a competition for points, but

an interactive connection to the sensory elements of the mind-bending voyage. Chairs slide across the wall and light tunnels surround the riders. One of its selling points is that guests are eager to re-ride to capture something they didn't see on the previous ride through.

"Every time you shoot a target it affects the art within the attraction," said Pitcher. "Meow Wolf included little Easter eggs for people who are from Denver or Santa Fe. If you are on the inside, you go, 'Oh, I get that!'"

"This phenomenally cool ride is jam-packed with art scenes," said **Lori Kaupp**, director of operations. "You want to ride over and over again to see everything that is in Kaleidoscope."

Meow Wolf champions otherness, weirdness, challenging norms, radical inclusion and the power of creativity to change the world. For now, Elitch Gardens has just become a little more creative — or weird. Take your pick.

•elitchgardens.com

Bigfire offers fireside dining at Universal Citywalk



COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

ORLANDO, Fla. — This summer, Universal Orlando Resort will debut an original dining experience concept: **Bigfire**. The all-new, full-service restaurant will bring a specially created menu and a highly-themed environment directly to guests at **Universal CityWalk** — and take open fire cooking to a new level.

Bigfire will feature unique theming designed to make guests feel as though they have stepped into a grand lakeside lodge, creating an atmosphere reminiscent of summers spent by the water. The two-story venue will feature a cozy fireplace as well as cast iron and wood design elements mixed

with nostalgic camp lanterns and oversized plaid blankets.

The fireside theming continues on the menu, as guests can enjoy one of the most popular fireside treats — s'mores — which they will be able to prepare themselves right at their table.

At the heart of the venue will be a custom wood fire grill, allowing guests to see their meal being prepared from anywhere in the restaurant. For the first time at Universal Orlando, each dish will be expertly paired with a select type of wood to enhance the smoky flavor in each bite. From Cherrywood to Pecanwood and more, the pairings will add flavor to

the American classic dishes and unique entrees which will include: a signature bison burger, coffee, freshwater trout, smoked salads as well as chili and cocoa rubbed top sirloin.

When it opens, Bigfire will join other popular experiences such as **The Toothsome Chocolate Emporium & Savory Feast Kitchen**, **NBC Sports Grill & Brew**, **The Cowfish Sushi Burger Bar**, and **VIVO Italian Kitchen**. The restaurant will be located between VIVO Italian Kitchen and **Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville** on the edge of the lagoon — offering views of Universal CityWalk.

•universalorlando.com

Historical marker presented at Kennywood

WEST MIFFLIN, Pa. — A Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker was dedicated in early May just outside the gates of Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa. The marker was recognizing Frederick Ingersoll, an amusement industry pioneers, for his numerous contributions to the amusement park and roller coaster industries. He created the world's first chain of amusement parks, named Luna Park. He also built several roller coasters for Kennywood. From left, Andy Masich, CEO of the Heinz History Center; and Brian Butko, Director of Publications for the Heinz History Center; Jerome Gibas, General Manager of Kennywood; and Bill Linkenheimer, Regional Representative of American Coaster Enthusiasts Western Pennsylvania. Two existing PHMC markers, once located elsewhere on the property, (Kennywood Park and Braddock's Crossing) have been relocated, to a new historical marker garden near the park's main entrance. COURTESY KEN RILING



Nagashima Spa Land releases Japan's newest giant

Rocky Mountain Construction, S&S and Sansei Technologies deliver Hakugei

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

NAGASHIMA, Mie, Japan — On January 28, 2018, Nagashima Spa Land's gigantic wooden coaster, White Cyclone, gave its final rides. Built in 1994, White Cyclone was one of only a handful of wooden coasters in Japan, but also the nation's largest at 139 feet in height and more than a mile in length. In that quarter century, maintenance demands and lower ridership were a couple factors in closing the ride (but not the only ones).

Enter Hakugei. The transformation of the former wooden coaster into a Rocky Mountain Construction IBox track creation is Japan's first venture

into the latest trend. The height of the coaster has grown to 180 feet, but the length has been shortened slightly to just over 5,000 feet — still a substantial length. Top speed hits 66 mph. Now named Hakugei, the name change translates to White Whale.

"I have to comment on the structure. The massive wall of white wood with the blue track, it looks great. The track just pops," says Jake Kilcup, COO, Rocky Mountain Construction.

The journey of White Cyclone to Hakugei is an interesting one. Officials at Nagashima Spa Land visited Six Flags Fiesta Texas (San Antonio) to experience the first S&S Worldwide 4D Free Spin coaster, of which they

With a top speed of 66 mph, Hakugei's first drop is taken at 80 degrees.
COURTESY YOSHIKI NISHIKAWA



Hakugei features three signature Rocky Mountain Construction inversions. COURTESY YOSHIKI NISHIKAWA



purchased one and installed in 2017. During that visit, they also took opportunity to ride the park's Iron Rattler, a Rocky Mountain Construction project that transformed a giant aging wooden coaster into a new smooth thriller. The mindset was that the ride was impressive, and they wanted that experience for Nagashima Spa Land as well.

As reported to *Amusement Today*, Nagashima Spa Land could not contract with RMC directly, but had to go through a Japanese company, which is how Sansei Technologies became involved. Officially the ride contract is with Sansei although various companies took part.

"Sansei subcontracted to us for some of the engineering and we subcontracted to RMC," said Tim Timco, president and CEO, S&S Worldwide. "RMC was responsible for the manufacturing of the track and the vehicles and supervision of those at the park itself, S&S was responsible for the mechanicals — the lift, the brakes and the engineering that went with that and the installation oversight of those on site, and Sansei was tasked with the dismantling of White Cyclone and the installation of the new [structure] as well as engineering to put matters to Japanese code."

"This was an added layer of complexity, but with more individuals involved came more areas of strength," said Kilcup. "Every group was able to shine in different areas of the project which led to a pretty amazing ride."

The coaster currently has a more dynamic profile with a first drop now taken at 80 degrees and three new inversions (a zero-G stall and two zero-G rolls).

"True to his legend, the master track designer, Alan Schilke (of Ride Centerline) did not waste a single running meter of track," said Quin Checketts, general manager, design planning, Sansei Technologies. "There was never a moment wasted. You

never feel like you are between maneuvers. The pacing was absolutely perfect."

Following on the heels of another giant coaster, Steel Vengeance at Cedar Point, RMC was asked by AT if gigantic coasters came with any challenges. Kilcup replied, "The challenges of the IBox remodels are less connected to size and more connected to the difficulties of working on and manipulating an old structure."

"I think we've done about 12 of these now, so we've really worked through quite a variety of issues. There were a couple of firsts for us on this project though," said Kilcup. "This was our first IBox remodel project that was done through a separate company: S&S. It was also our first project in Japan. Both of these facts presented different challenges, but in the end, there were several different entities working together with a common goal. I think we succeeded."

"It was, by far, the most incredible roller coaster I've ever been on," said Checketts. "This is the kind of coaster that you want to ride again and again. It is seriously fun."

"The ride is subtle, which I like. No gimmicks, just a fun theme and a great ride," said Kilcup.

Lagotronics adds attraction for Nagashima Spa Land's 2019 season



NAGASHIMA, Mie, Japan — In addition to Nagashima's Spa Land's new mammoth coaster, families were not left out as the park introduced a new dark ride also this spring.

Netherlands-based Lagotronics has installed a new dark ride geared for families and the younger crowd. Using its Farm Fair brand, Farm de Bang Bang is a tracked version of the dark ride where visitors interact with hilarious 3-D games.

During the experience, 10 agricultural-themed vehicles roam through seven gaming scenes. Each vehicle seats four, and each rider has their own shooter, whimsically themed to carrots. The ride also contains a pre- and post-show. The storyline involves Horse, Cat and Rooster from the Farm Fair IP, all in full HD quality graphics. Funny competition prompts repeat rides. Scores are displayed inside each vehicle.

Using a pre-existing building at the park, Lagotronics, in cooperation with ART Engineering and KCA Corporation, provided the vehicles, storyline, interactive gaming equipment and lighting. The ride opened in April.

Lagotronics Projects
www.lagotronicsprojects.com

Dark Rides

Interactive Systems

Show Experiences



WE BUILD



CAREERS



CHARACTER



VALUE



QUALITY



208-772-8181 — WWW.ROCKYMTNCONSTRUCTION.COM

THE I-BOX(TM) TRACK IS COVERED BY US PATENTS 8590455 AND 9566522, AND BY FOREIGN PATENTS. TOPPER TRACKUS AND FOREIGN PATENTS PENDING.

'Star Wars'-themed land taps into The Force at Disneyland

Galaxy's Edge aims to impress fans and redefine 'immersive'

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ANAHEIM — After five years of planning and near-hyperdrive-speed construction, *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* was set to open to general public at Disneyland on May 31.

One of two virtually identical 14-acre sci-fi/fantasy areas emerging at the Walt Disney Co.'s U.S. theme parks this summer (the other, at Walt Disney World Resort's Disney Hollywood Studios in Orlando, is scheduled to debut Aug. 29), the project represents the largest single-themed land the Southern California park has ever introduced.

All indications are that the massive effort and disruption, which included the extended temporary and permanent closure of several attractions and the rerouting of the Disneyland Railroad and Rivers of America, have been well worth it. *Galaxy's Edge* occupies what was formerly the northern part of Frontierland and a backstage area.

The land transports guests to Black Spire Outpost, a village on the never-before-seen planet of Batuu, which is filled with otherworldly sights, sounds, smells and tastes. Visitors become part of the story as they sample exotic food and beverages, explore a collection of merchant shops and take the controls of the most famous ship in the galaxy with



Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run, a ride housed inside a full-size replica of the spaceship, is a flight simulator experience guided by the characters Hondo Ohnaka and Chewbacca. The ship's Chess Room offers guests a nostalgic photo op. COURTESY DISNEYLAND RESORT

Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run, a flight simulator ride. Rey, Finn, Poe, BB-8 and Chewbacca are among the characters guests may encounter during a journey.

This represents the project's first phase. The next, launching later this year, will be the unveiling of a second major attraction called *Star Wars: Rise of the Resistance* — billed as even more advanced and ambitious than the Millennium Falcon adventure. The multi-element dark ride will place guests in the middle of a climactic battle between the First Order and the Resistance.

Galaxy's Edge, the seamless-ness of which is enhanced by new atmospheric theme music by celebrated *Star Wars* composer John Williams, culminates decades of collaboration between Walt Disney Imagineering (WDI) and Lucasfilm, Ltd., the now Disney-owned guardian of the 42-year-old franchise. Their creative part-

nership dates back to 1987, when the groundbreaking *Star Tours* attraction opened at Disneyland.

Designing the land required every technological tool in the box, including 3D modeling, digital animation and virtual reality, so that the teams from WDI, Lucasfilm and the venerable, multi-award-winning visual effects house Industrial Light & Magic could carefully plan and pre-experience everything from Batuu's unusual architecture to the movement of the Millennium Falcon ride.

The planetary setting is "a place that, in days of yore, was a necessary stopping off point to get food and provisions and refuel as you explored the outer reaches of the galaxy," explained Scott Trowbridge, creative executive for the global *Star Wars* portfolio. "But over time, and especially with the advent of faster-than-light travel, it lost its prominence. It became much more of a home for smugglers and bounty hunters... maybe even some folks that are trying to avoid the ever-expanding watch of the First Order."

Trowbridge added that *Galaxy's Edge* gives guests "a massive E-ticket experience filled with story and characters and ways to explore and experience this galaxy far, far away like never before. One of the things we know about our guests is that they want more and more to lean into these stories, to get closer to these characters. They want to participate more, not just be a spectator.

"It's all focused towards a single goal: to give our guests the opportunity to live their *Star Wars* story."

Star wares and "wears"

Another thing the *Galaxy's Edge* creative team knows about *Star Wars* fans is their penchant for merchandise. Storefronts and stalls throughout the new area

brim with authentic franchise collectibles, gear and souvenirs.

The Droid Depot invites guests to construct their own droids. Patrons can pick pieces and parts off a conveyor belt to build one of two core models (R-series or BB-series) and customize their droids with various parts and colors. These creations, in turn, are capable of interacting with elements in the land.

At Savi's Workshop, visitors can craft and customize their very own lightsabers. Dok-Ondar's Den of Antiquities offers a selection of rare and mysterious items representing different eras of the *Star Wars* galaxy, including holocrons, ancient Jedi and Sith artifacts, and more.

The Black Spire Outpost market features the Creature Stall, dedicated to replicas of rare and fascinating creatures that populate the galaxy; and Black Spire Outfitters, showcasing the latest in accessories. There's also Toydarian Toymaker, a stall filled with toys crafted by a Toydarian (the flying alien species first seen in *Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace*, in 1999).

Guests can even demonstrate where their loyalties lie with the wearables they purchase. The Resistance Supply stall sells pins, badges, hats and other accessories to help visitors feel like part of the cause. First Order Cargo, meanwhile, sells pins, caps and model spaceships.

"We strove to be better than we've ever been before, to push ourselves further in product and design than we've ever pushed ourselves," said Brad Schoeneberg, WDI's director of merchandise strategy and a lifelong fan of the movie series. "*Star Wars* toys are the cornerstone of many generations of children and their childhood. So we knew it was important to offer them something different in this living land than they've

ever seen before.

"The product in this land is new, developed specifically for this place. You will not find any of our traditional *Star Wars* or evergreen products here. Everything was created through the lens of *Galaxy's Edge*."

That includes food and drink. Several outlets and street vendors serve treats such as milk in shades of blue and green and savory eats like grilled-meat Ronto Wraps.

At Oga's Cantina, even the blaster-bolt scorchers on the walls tell a story. Here, guests gather to share their tales from around the galaxy as they enjoy exotic beverages served in unique vessels and enjoy musical entertainment provided by DJ R-3X, otherwise known as Rex — the former Starspeeder 3000 pilot droid from the original *Star Tours*.

Know before you go...

Galaxy's Edge is the first land within a Disney park designed to integrate with the Play Disney Parks mobile app, which debuted last year and offers interactive adventures within the park environment. When guests use the app on their own cell phones, it allows them to engage with the land — whether through galactic language translation, mission assignments or role-playing games.

"It's an invitation to play, to go as deep as you want, using this new personal technology," Trowbridge said.

Guests planning to visit *Galaxy's Edge* at Disneyland between May 31 and June 23 will need a valid theme park admission and be required to make a no-cost reservation, subject to availability. Guests staying at one of the three Disneyland Resort hotels within this period will receive a designated reservation to access the new land during their stay (one reservation per registered guest; valid theme park admission required).

Reservations for the land will not be required after June 23, but depending on demand, the park may implement virtual queuing. Access to Disneyland, *Galaxy's Edge* and the experiences is subject to capacity.

Visit Disneyland's website for additional information, including details on expanded parking and the latest park rules regarding costumes, smoking and the use of strollers. Look for complete coverage of the grand opening of *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge* in the July issue of *Amusement Today*.

•disneyland.com



Star Wars-themed apparel and collectibles, including droid kits and customizable lightsabers, have been designed exclusively for *Galaxy's Edge*.

COURTESY
DISNEYLAND RESORT

Park Post-its



AT: Pam Sherborne
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Blackpool Pleasure Beach, located in Blackpool, U.K., was honored by the **Blackpool Civic Trust** last month. The organization, which supports the town of Blackpool and its residents, awarded the park's double launch roller coaster, **Icon**, with the Best New Visitor Attraction.

Icon opened to the public in May 2018 and since then has launched hundreds of thousands of guests. The ride was manufactured by **Mack Rides** and represents an investment of more than \$18 million.

Amanda Thompson OBE, managing director of Blackpool Pleasure Beach said, in a press release, she was very honored by the award.

"The Civic Trust is a group which is very close to my heart as my father (**Geoffrey Thompson**) was the original chairman when it was established in 1975," Thompson said. Thompson's father founded Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Oklahoma City, Okla., has been chosen as one of four communities in the **Outdoor Foundation's** nationwide **Thrive Outside Community Initiative**. The project which provides a multi-year capacity-building grant to strengthen partnerships between existing local organizations, is designed to get kids and families outside. According to the Outdoor Foundation's Outdoor Participation Report, fewer than 18 percent of Americans recreate outside once a week.

The initiative brings local organizations such as schools, **Boys & Girls Clubs**, **YMCA's** and nonprofit conservation and outdoor organizations together.

Oklahoma City is joining the inaugural communities of Atlanta; Grand Rapids, Mich.; and San Diego, Calif.

Fifty years after "Charlie Brown" and "Snoopy" circled the moon, the **Charles Schulz's** Peanuts characters are now back with **NASA**.

Johnson Space Center, in collaboration with **Space Center Houston**, its official visitor center, marked the 50th anniversary of NASA's Apollo 10 mission last month with the dedication of an outdoor, space-themed Peanuts art installation inspired in part by the historic mission's spacecraft call signs, "Charlie Brown" (Apollo 10) and "Snoopy" (Apollo 11). Apollo 10 orbited the moon and served as a dress rehearsal for the historic Apollo 11 moon landing in July 1969.

Artist **Kenny Scharf's** "Peanuts Constellation" mural, featuring Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy van Pelt and Woodstock as constellations in the night sky, was used to wrap a retired training mock up of an International Space Station node. The module, along with several similarly art-wrapped towers now stands along the road between the entrances to the Johnson Space Center and Space Center Houston.

The installation was created through a

partnership between **Peanuts Worldwide**, the **Houston Arts Alliance**, **Houston Parks Board**, **Space Center Houston** and **Brookfield Properties**.

A large indoor dome at **Bluestone National Park Resort** in Pembrokeshire, Wales, is opening next month, and it will be something quite different for the area. Called the Serendome (Seren is Welsh for star), it features a transparent canopy over 75,000 square feet of cafes, shops, activities and a 400-seat amphitheater. Opening date has been set for July 19.

There will be a range of activities both paid and complimentary and exclusive for guests at the resort.

Among the activities are the **Wacky Racers**, where a family or other group can race against the clock to put together and decorate a race kart. Once complete, it will be put to the test against the other competitors.

Another activity is called the **StarCatcher**, where guests can scale a 38-foot tall naturally grown tree supported by an automatic belay.

The **SkyWalk** is a vertical adventure course, which is built over seven towers and features 24 climbing stations.

Other activities include a water play and sand play area as well as an imagination garden.

The **Neon Museum** in Las Vegas, Nev., celebrated last month with special discounts the passage of Nevada Assembly Bill 182, which officially makes neon the state element of Nevada.

Since its creation in 1996 and the official opening of the museum in 2012, the non-profit Neon Museum has remained dedicated to collecting, preserving, studying and exhibiting iconic Las Vegas signs for educational, historic, arts and cultural enrichment. Today, it welcomes more than 200,000 annual visitors from around the world who are drawn by the allure of the state's most famous art form.

Since opening in 2012, the Neon Museum has restored 27 signs and hosted numerous educational lectures, family events and panel discussions.

Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta, Ga., donated \$1 to Ronald McDonald House Charities for each child's ticket redemption it received last month as part of an expanding promotional partnership with **McDonald's**.

During the month of May, a Wild Adventures child's ticket was included with every Happy Meal sold at participating McDonald's in South Georgia and North Florida. The promotion connected more than 117 McDonald's restaurants with the attraction owned and operated by **Herschend Family Entertainment**.

SeaQuest Interactive Aquarium, a chain of interactive animal facilities operating in six states, opened last month in the Rosedale Center shopping mall in Roseville, Minn.

The aquarium is 23,000 square feet in size with 1,500 animals from featured areas of Caribbean Cove, Amazon Rainforest, Grasslands of Denmark, Egyptian Desert and Great Wall of China.

SeaQuest specializes in allowing visitors to feed and touch animals with activities such as swimming and snorkeling with stingrays, reef sharks and tropical fish in a 45,000-gallon exhibit, hand-feeding birds and petting reptiles.

The facility is available for class field trips, birthday parties and other special events.

AMUSEMENT PARK MARKET PLACE

WAPELLO is the One!

Built in the USA to Your Needs!



Let Wapello high-performance products go to work for you. Give us a call or write today. Custom sizes, shapes and colors.

Wapello Fabrications Company
201 North Second Street • Wapello, IA 52653
(319) 523-8371 • wafabco@iouisacomm.net



Whatever your Industry...
ITC
INDIANA TICKET COMPANY
Design / Quality / Security
Manufacturers of Quality Tickets For over 70 years

1-800-428-8640

Redemption Tickets • Reserved Seating
Admission Tickets • Wristbands
Direct Thermal Tickets • Credentials



www.muncienovelty.com
info@muncienovelty.com

A MUNCIE NOVELTY INC. COMPANY

We've got your Ticket.

WATERLOO
We Turn What If Into WOW
Handcrafted Quality Canvas Since 1884
GET YOURS TODAY!
Shade Creations by Waterloo www.waterlootent.com 1-800-537-1193
Carnival Creations by Waterloo

XINSURANCE
for life unexpected

POWERED BY EVOLUTION INSURANCE BROKERS, LC

Customized Insurance
Coverage for the
Amusement &
Recreation Industry

For a free quote, call 877.585.2853 or email
quotes@xinsurance.com * www.xinsurance.com

Keep our amusement park industry strong!
Buy products and services from these suppliers.

India's Magic Mountain Park installs two Huss attractions

LONAVALA, India — Huss Park Attractions GmbH has installed two major attractions at a brand-new park in India: a Top Spin Suspended and a Giant Frisbee 40.

Debuting on April 11, Magic Mountain Park in Lonavala, Maharashtra, a state in the western peninsular region of India, is owned and operated by the Malpani Group, a diversified business organization active in a variety of business sectors including amusement and theme parks, water parks, hotels and more.

The new park is India's largest amusement park, covering an area of 30 acres. It is the first venue to bring such a diverse selection of internationally popular and recognized rides and attractions to India. With an anticipated annual attendance of one million visitors, the park is aimed at the 15-to-45-year-old age group and has been designed to provide a 360-degree view of the surrounding Sahyadri mountain range.

Magic Mountain Park is also home to some of the country's largest and tallest thrill rides, two of which are the attractions supplied by Huss. The Top Spin Suspended is from the company's classic range and is one of the most successful attractions ever



Opening in April, Magic Mountain Park in India featured two Huss attractions on opening day: a Top Spin Suspended (left) as well as a Giant Frisbee 40 (right).
COURTESY HUSS PARK ATTRACTIONS GMBH

built by Huss.

The Top Spin Suspended carries 38 passengers with riders seated back to back in two rows of 19. The state-of-the-art suspended seat configuration also delivers the added thrill of a floorless gondola, allowing riders' legs to dangle freely below them as the attraction goes through its various ride patterns. Motions include a swinging pendulum movement of the gondola, circular rotations of the gondola in any position and sudden flips after releasing the drum

brake, in addition to multiple spins of the gondola around its suspension axis. This installation features a water fountain below the gondola adding to the visual thrill and excitement.

The Giant Frisbee 40 is from the Huss giant range of rides and, as the name implies, seats up to 40 riders at one time. It features an impressive passenger flying height of 141 feet, making for an iconic landmark for the park.

An 82-foot pendulum swings riders seated in an



outward facing circle up to 120 degrees on each side. Passengers reach speeds of 68 mph. As the ride reaches maximum speed and height, riders experience rapid acceleration, 4.5 Gs and moments of weightless airtime.

The attractions provide Magic Mountain Park with two high capacity rides which are certain to be key draws for the venue's target market.

"We are delighted to have provided two major attractions to such a signifi-

cant new park in India, and we are confident they will be hugely popular with guests," stated Huss CEO Mirko J. Schulze, commenting on their installation.

"They will entertain visitors for many years to come. Our Indian office led by Ms. Vibhisha Jain played a key role in securing this contract and in the project itself, and we look forward to doing more business in this part of the world in the future."

•hussrides.com

Amusement
TODAY Your Amusement
Industry
NEWS Leader

f t YouTube

FOLLOW US
for all the industry NEWS!

KidZania opens its 27th facility



DOHA, Qatar — KidZania announced the grand opening of KidZania Doha in Qatar, in the heart of Aspire Park. Doha joins KidZania as the 27th facility around the globe in 21 countries. The foundation ceremony occurred in the facility on April 30, in the presence of local government authorities, industry partners, representatives from the different KidZania Franchises around the world, company's collaborators and media. COURTESY KIDZANIA

Icon Attractions awarded Union Station Wheel project

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Icon Attractions was selected by Lodging Hospitality Management (LHM) to operate **The St. Louis Wheel**, a 200-foot-tall observation wheel under construction at historic Union Station. The firm will also operate a carousel and other family-friendly attractions, all part of a \$150-million entertainment complex in downtown St. Louis.

Once it opens later this year, The St. Louis Wheel is scheduled to operate every day and features 42 fully-enclosed, climate-controlled and ADA compliant gondolas that seat up to six adults each. Passengers will take three to four rotations over the St. Louis skyline during the 15-minute ride.

Union Station in St. Louis is a National Historic Landmark, once the busiest and largest train station in the world. Converted in the early 1980s, Union Station now features the four diamond **St. Louis**



Union Station Hotel and The Grand Hall at Union Station. The Train Park at Union Station currently includes festival space and is home to the Polar Express, food outlets, an outdoor plaza and fire and light show.

The destination continues to expand with the construction of the **St. Louis Aquarium at Union Station**, St. Louis Wheel, Carousel, Mini Golf, Ropes Course and Mirror Maze, all set to open in 2019.

"St. Louis is the heart of America," said LHM President and COO **Stephen M. O'Loughlin**. "Reimagining the future of Union Station, open-



The St. Louis Wheel is one of several attractions scheduled to open in 2019 at the revitalized Historic Union Station. COURTESY ST. LOUIS UNION STATION

ing a world-class aquarium, and delivering a year-round family entertainment destination, all while preserving an important part of history, is something we are incredibly excited about."

"LHM is a highly-respected and innovative hospitality firm," said Icon Attractions CEO **Eli Stovall**. "We are thrilled to be working with LHM on the development of new family experiences at

Union Station St. Louis, and honored to be part of this award-winning team."

The redevelopment of Union Station in St. Louis is not the first mixed-use project for Icon Attractions. In 2019, **The Capital Wheel** and **Harbor Carousel** at **National Harbor** — under the management of Icon Attractions — will celebrate a 5-year anniversary at the riverfront development.

"The Capital Wheel

has been an Iconic addition to National Harbor and the Washington, D.C. region," said Icon Attractions COO **Curtis Parks**. "Since opening in 2014, our team has grown in the hospitality arena. Our longtime experience in water parks, amusement parks and family entertainment centers has proven invaluable as we expand into retail entertainment experiences."

•Iconattractions.com

We look forward to meeting you at:

IAAPA Expo Asia

in Shanghai, June 12-14
Booth: 1126



Gerstlauer Amusement Rides GmbH
Industriestraße 17
D-86505 Münsterhausen
Tel. (49) 8281 - 99 68 0
Fax (49) 8281 - 99 68 33
www.gerstlauer-rides.com
info@gerstlauer-rides.de



Infinity Coaster

Der Schwur des Kärnan
Hansa-Park, Germany

Monster
Adventureland Park,
United States

Junker
Powerpark, Finland

Gold Rush
Attractiepark Slagharen,
Netherlands

Karacho
Tripsdrill, Germany

Infinite thrill!





L-Acoustics provides the sound of The Flyer

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — San Francisco's **The Flyer** theater attraction gives both tourists and locals alike a bird's eye view of the city using cinematic artistry and state-of-the-art HD film footage captured with the help of drones and helicopters, and blended with computer-generated imagery. The visitors are also delighted by the **Triotech** attraction's audio thanks to a cinematic soundtrack played through a high-impact, high-fidelity sound system from **L-Acoustics**.

"The soundtrack is extremely dynamic and exciting, and it also follows the emotions of the film very closely," says **Mathieu Vachon**, audio director for Triotech. "But once we were finally on site at **Pier 39** and I heard it played through the L-Acoustics sound system, I thought, 'Wow!' It was even better than in the studio. The score is huge and orchestral, and these loudspeakers make it feel so alive. The highs are crisp and clear, and the subs deliver a nice solid low end. Combined with the video, the final result is breathtaking."

When The Flyer experience begins, 28 seated guests, suspended on an active-motion platform, embark on an immersive, high-definition "flight" through some of the Bay Area's most iconic landmarks and neighborhoods, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, Coit Tower, Marin Headlands, Chinatown, the Castro and more, propelled by Vachon's energetic score brought to life on the L-Acoustics sound system.

•l-acoustics.com



FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTRAL

AT: John W.C. Robinson

jrobinson@amusementtoday.com

Urban Air Adventure Park has announced the official nationwide roll-out of Endless Play Memberships to all parks. Urban Air's membership program is a first in the location-based entertainment industry, giving customers unlimited monthly access to the company's indoor family theme parks for as low as \$6.99.

"We are incredibly proud to bring this unique business model to the family entertainment industry," said **Michael Browning**, Urban Air Adventure Park CEO. "At **Urban Air**, we believe speed and innovation will win, and this is a testament to our commitment to innovation."

"With the Endless Play Membership Program, we are providing guests an amazing value, allowing them to make Urban Air their home for family fun year-round. We are also broadening who can access the park by making it more affordable to host a party or show up for open play."

•
A project from a team of elementary school siblings has finally come to fruition at **Austin's Park n' Pizza**.

In March 2017, a team of **Steiner Ranch Elementary** students and siblings – **Adelle, Sophia, Arthur** and **Tim Tupushev** – came up with an idea for a Virtual Reality simulator that would allow gamers to enjoy all axis rotation. This rotation simulates a close-to-reality ride on a roller coaster, plane, or spacecraft.

Steiner Ranch Elementary focuses heavily on STEM programs, with proven results. The parents of this bright group of students attribute this focus, along with the school's principal and teachers, with the success of this project and their children's enthusiasm for completing it.

After an unsuccessful attempt to find Austin-area investors and production companies for their project, the students decided to work with a production facility in China who specializes in manufacturing commercial arcade machines. In August 2018, the first prototype model was released. Austin's Park n' Pizza, a family entertainment center, is the first amusement facility in the United States to feature this new Virtual Reality simulator.

"It is just amazing that local kids had this idea and were able to see it through to development," said **Michael Gross**, owner and operator of Austin's Park n' Pizza. "We're so happy to be the first to debut this Virtual Reality simulator at Austin's Park n' Pizza."

•
TreePaad Family Entertainment Center in Malta, N.Y. has announced it has shut its doors for good.

A former employee and volunteer firefighter, **William L. Smith**, confessed in March 2014 that he set fire to TreePaad. He was sentenced to eight years in state prison the following August after admitting he'd also set fires at the West Glens Falls fire station.

"TreePaad has struggled financially since the fire," its owners, which include **Patti Garrand** and **Paula Cross**, announced on their website in early May.

The owners thanked their customers and added, "We are considering a reorganization, but we can't make any promises."

•
Urban Air announced it is expanding to include a new **Urban Air Adventure Park** in North Riverside, Ill. The new park will open at

7401 W 25th St., North Riverside, Ill., in the Fall of 2019.

"We look forward to bringing the Urban Air brand to North Riverside," said **Michael Browning**, chief executive officer of Urban Air Adventure Parks. The new Urban Air Adventure Park will be a state-of-the-art destination, providing over 58,587 square feet of activities including a trampoline park, rock climbing, and indoor playgrounds. The centerpiece of the family entertainment center will feature expansive trampoline arenas.

The park will also feature its signature competitive attractions The Urban Warrior Course and Battle Beam, where guest can compete with one another for bragging rights.

Additionally, the Urban Air Sky Rider Indoor Coaster will be a venue highlight; a one-of-a-kind experience that allows riders to soar overhead all the attractions with a birds-eye view of all Urban Air entails.

•
Xtreme Action Park of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., recently replaced a debit card system from another vendor with cashless technology from **InterCard**.

Xtreme's new system integrates with its proprietary customer kiosks and SMS Timing POS system. More than 180 InterCard readers control the more than 150 games in the FEC's 5,000-square-foot game room. Customers can also use their game cards for access to many of Xtreme's other attractions, including virtual reality, a dark ride, Bazoooka Blast and roller skating.

"I wanted someone that made purpose-built card readers and built a back office and a front office that supported game cards and arcades," stated **Nate Howard**, managing director of Xtreme Action Park. "Furthermore, I needed a support team that will always be there 24/7."

"Customer satisfaction increased immediately when they could check their [card] balance on the floor rather than having to wait in line at the front desk," says Howard. "When they go into the redemption prize center guests can swipe their card, see how many tickets they have and go right back out to the game room." The new system also freed up employees to work elsewhere in the facility.

•
Rockin' Jump Trampoline Park in Vacaville, Calif., recently debuted a new Neon Ninja Xourse and Neon Dodgeball Court.

First opening in 2016, the Rockin' Jump Vacaville team decided it was time to upgrade their venue and contacted **Best American Trampoline Parks**, who manufactured, installed and helped design the trampoline park. Best American had recently released a new line of neon attractions and materials that illuminate when exposed to black lights, an innovative product that would elevate their entertainment center's attractions. The entire upgrade took less than four days to complete and the park remained open.

"There is a lot of excitement surrounding the addition of our ninja course," said Todd Carlson, co-owner of Rockin' Jump Vacaville. "The feedback and responses we've received about the new attraction have been great for our marketing and social media. The fact that it glows in the dark adds a whole other level of excitement and intrigue."

BREAK DANCE

*Take a wild spin aboard a "Crazy Cab!"
Coming to Knoebels Amusement Resort in 2019!*



ACCEPTING FARES
now on YouTube!



221 EVANS WAY, SUITE E • SOMERVILLE, N.J. 08876 • (908) 526-8009 • www.RIDES4U.com

Brown's Amusements provides midway for Clark County Fair & Rodeo

Nevada event
sees 83,971 guests

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

LOGANDALE, Nev. – With only a staff of four, along with 500 volunteers, the latest edition of the **Clark County Fair & Rodeo** proved successful again. The weather, which is always a crucial component, was a mixed bag with wind, cold, showers and heat; however that did not deter fairgoers. "Weather was overall good. We had some wind on the setup days, but the days of the fair were in the 70s and 80s," said **Kevin Willard**, fair manager.

Attendance rose 3.7 percent over the 2018 edition. Total attendance came in at 83,971 patrons to the fair, with 13,019 attending the rodeo. The theme this year was "Get Your Fair Face On!"

In order to provide a higher level of security, scanners were used for the first time this year. Tickets and badges were scanned at all eight gates.

Brown's Amusements (Mesa, Ariz.) brought 23 rides (nine adult, six family and eight kiddie) to the site. This is its inaugural spot each season. New this year was **Jumping Jumbos** (**Sellner**



The Chance Zipper is an ever popular ride at the Clark County Fair & Rodeo. (See page 40 for *Amusement Today's* feature article on the classic Chance ride.) COURTESY BROWN'S AMUSEMENTS

Manufacturing). The top three grossing rides included **Freak Out (KMG)**, **Expo Gondola Wheel (Wadkins)** and its three-abreast carousel (**Allen Herschel**). The carnival offered its always-popular **Buddy Day** program on Thursday. This enabled one person to buy an all-day ride pass, with their buddy riding for free.

"Brown's Amusements had a real good run at the

Clark County Fair," said **Danny Brown**, co-owner. "The fair management does a great job. They run a very professional operation."

On the rodeo side of things, there were five performances (one each evening) of a **Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA)** pro rodeo rider featuring top cowboys in the organization and Cowgirls from the **WPRA**, (**Women's Professional**

Rodeo Association).

The Clark County Fair & Rodeo started in 1965. First known as the **Moapa**

Valley Fair, it was held at the **Overton Community Center**. Throughout the 1970s and early eighties, the fair took place at various locations in the community such as the local park, churches and schools. In 1981 the fair committee decided to pursue a more permanent location for the fair obtaining 190 acres of ground in Logandale. In 1986 the Moapa Valley Fair officially changed its name to the **Clark County Fair**. In 1997 due to the ever popular rodeo, the fair changed its name to the **Clark County Fair & Rodeo**.

The dates for 2020 are April 8 – 12.

• ccfair.com



The niece of **Sherry Brown**, co-owner, takes a turn on the **Motorcycle Jump**, a **Hampton** ride. COURTESY BROWN'S AMUSEMENTS



The **KMG Freak Out** thrilled riders during the five-day event. With nearly 84,000 fairgoers, the popular ride consistently had guests lining up both day and evening. COURTESY BROWN'S AMUSEMENTS



Ital International LLC

Major, Family and Spectacular Rides

Check out the hundreds of new and used rides at www.italintl.com

Bertazzon: Park Model & One-Trailer Rides

Technical Park: Park Model & One-Trailer Rides

Ital International LLC | Phone: 615-383-3986 | Fax: 615-383-9244 | E-Mail: sales@italintl.com



Sky Hawk

COMING SOON TO A NIGHT SKY NEAR YOU

1506 Fernwood Road · Wintersville, OH 43953 · 740.264.6599



Midway provider Tons of Fun christens new 82-foot Keystone Wheel

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

DOUGLASVILLE, Pa. — Babies are christened, so are ships and now so are wheels ... big wheels, really big wheels. On April 29, the evening before the 12th annual five-day **Amity Fire and Rescue Company** carnival, midway provider **Tons of Fun Shows** held a christening celebration for its new, 82-foot Keystone Wheel, manufactured by **Bojux s.r.o.** based in Trebic, Czech Republic. The event, the brainchild of **Ben Pfeffer**, co-owner, planned a really unique maiden-voyage ride party. Like a baby all dressed in white, the wheel structure sports that same color, with 18 blue gondola-style seats and a colorful LED lighting package from **R2M2 Energy Solutions**, Breinigsville, Pa.

More than 100 family members, other carnival operators, the media and numerous guests were invited to share in the wheel-lighting celebration of the carnival's new crown jewel. A pig roast buffet, complete with all the fixings, including sauerkraut, was provided. Entertainment was also provided. The tables were adorned with lilac flow-



ers in vases. Dessert included specially-designed wheel cookies and a three foot tall cake, from **Unique Desserts** (West Reading, Pa.), made to look like a smaller version of the one-trailer, portable traveling wheel that attendees rode when dusk descended upon the southeastern Pennsylvania carnival site.

A champagne toast at 8 p.m. along with the proverbial breaking of a bottle on the wheel was originally planned. It turned out that more people showed up than there was bubbly, and the elder show owner, **David Pfeffer**, was concerned about smashing a bottle on their brand new \$450,000 attraction. The Keystone Wheel has a 72 person ride capacity.

"It's a monster. It's impressive," said Ben. "It has a new program for how the wheel runs to keep it auto-



The Keystone Wheel is the largest traveling portable wheel in Pennsylvania. At 82 feet, the wheel takes six people 15 man hours to set up/tear down. **R2M2 Energy Solutions**, Breinigsville, Pa., provided the 4,000 light LED lighting package (left) that was installed by the carnival themselves. The pattern cycles every 15 minutes. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

matically balanced, which is state-of-the-art for a Ferris wheel. It's all in one trailer, which is mighty impressive for 82 feet."

Last July, Bojux was commissioned to build the ride as the younger Pfeffer explained, "A very good friend of mine — a great showman, who represents the Bojux Company

is **Ricky Moore**, of **Moore Greater Shows** called me and said, 'I have the wheel for you.' They [Bojux] want someone to bring the first one over here. I got a very good deal on the first one. I'm very happy with it. The only way I would do the deal in July of last year is if I could get it for the beginning of my season this year." The



wheel was completed in late February, loaded on the ship in mid-March and arrived at the **Port of Baltimore** for pick-up on April 5.

The lighting package, which Tons of Fun installed themselves, contains 4,000 lights. **Rob MagDule** with

► See WHEEL, page 27

2019 WHAT'S NEW GUIDE | CARNIVALS AND CRUISE LINES

Compiled by Jeffrey Seifert and B. Derek Shaw

This is a list of announced and confirmed projects for 2019. Some manufacturers have more projects for this year that have yet to be announced.

TRAVELING SHOWS

1st Class Amusements....Bojux Miami (Crazy Dance)
Adam Swika Shows....Fun Light Manufacturing Four Story Funhouse
Anderson Midway LLC....Luna Park Circus Train
Beauce Carnival....Rides 4 U, Inc Crazy Cabs; Wadkins expo Wheel Inc. Expo Wheel
Big Rock Amusements....KMG International Freakout
Big Round Wheel Amusements....Luna Park 50-foot Wheel
Browns Amusement....Kolmax Plus Dragon Coaster
Butler Amusements....Rides 4 U, Inc Crazy Cabs
Casey's Rides....Luna Park 50-foot Wheel
Coleman Brothers Shows....Wisdom Rides Himalaya
Coles Shows....Luna Park 50-foot Wheel
Deggeller Attractions....KMG International Space Port (Speed)
Dreamland Amusements....Kolmax Plus Jumbo Elephant
Frazier Shows....Luna Park 50-foot Wheel
Fun Show Amusements....Wadkins Expo Wheel Inc. Expo Wheel
Houghton Enterprises....Rides 4 U, Inc Frog Hopper, Samba Balloon
I Land Rides LLC....Kolmax Plus Jumbo Elephant, Tea Cup, Wheel, Dragon Coaster
Jessop Amusements....Bojux Miami; Kolmax Plus Ferris Wheel, bumper cars
Jolly Amusements....Bojux Miami
Majestic Midways....Rides 4 U, Inc Crazy Cabs
Mitchell Brothers Shows....Dalton Kids Rides Farm Tractor
Modern Midways....Kolmax Plus Dragon Coaster (Jung Max)
Moore's Greater Shows....Bojux Kids Carousel
NAME....Bojux Miami
Otterbacher Shows....KMG International Surf Ride
PBJ Happee Day Shows....Kolmax Plus Jumbo Elephant; Wadkins Expo Wheel Inc. Expo Wheel

Powers & Thomas Midway Entertainment....Kolmax Plus Jumbo Elephant, Wheel, Dragon Coaster; Wisdom Rides Alien Abduction
Powers Great American Midways....A.R.M. Sky Hawk; Kolmax Plus Dragon Coaster
Ray Cammack Shows....Titan — custom-built Fabbri 55m Booster Maxx; Kolmax Plus Tea Cup
Skelly's Amusements....Rides 4 U, Inc Crazy Cabs
Skerbeck Entertainment....Luna Park Children's Carousel
Tons of Fun Shows....Bojux 25m Wheel
Wade Shows....Wisdom Rides Sizzler, Starship
Wee Entertainment....Dalton Kids Rides Jump Cycle
West Coast Amusements....Ital International Street Fighter; Wadkins Expo Wheel Inc. Expo Wheel
World's Finest Shows....Rides 4 U, Inc Crazy Cabs

CRUISE SHIPS

Carnival Panorama....SkyRide Technology SkyRider; Sky Zone indoor trampoline park; Waterworks water park; ropes course
Carnival Splendor....Waterworks water park
Carnival Sunrise....Waterworks water park
Costa Smeralda....Aqua Park
Costa Venezia....Waterpark, ropes course, sports deck with basketball courts, indoor pool, mini-golf
MSC Bellissima....WhiteWater AquaSpray, Giant AquaTube, Constrictor, Champagne Bowl, AquaPlay 150; F1 Race Course simulator; Ropes Course International 24-foot SkyTrail ropes course; indoor sportsplex; full size bowling alleys; two Cirque du Soliel shows created exclusively for MSC
MSC Grandiosa....Ropes Course International 24-foot SkyTrail ropes course; full size bowling alleys; two Cirque du Soliel shows created exclusively for MSC
Norwegian Encore....Aqua Park, Go Kart track, augmented reality maze; 10,000-square-foot VR gaming and simulator venue; open air laser tag
Royal Caribbean: Spectrum of the Seas....Sky Pad trampoline park, Flowrider, iFly indoor skydiving, North Star observation pod, indoor bumper cars, ice skating rink, water park



Above left, Tons of Fun Shows principals from left: co-owners David Pfeffer, Ben Pfeffer and retired co-owner Suellen Pfeffer, wife of David. Unique Desserts created a cake (middle) for the Keystone Wheel along with wheel cookies. The wheel provided a great view (right) of the Tons of Fun midway. AT/B. DEREK SHAW

►WHEEL

Continued from page 26

R2M2, the lighting supplier, talked about the programming. "There's actually three controllers up inside just because of the number of sweeps to it. It takes approximately 12-15 minutes before it repeats itself again. It has that many different patterns to run."

Also new on the Tons of Fun midway this year is Quadzilla (a dune buggy-styled car flat ride) by **Majestic Manufacturing**. The show bought the first one ever made, a proto-type, from **Steve Swika III, SwikaS Amusements**, who had it in storage.

The Keystone Wheel will travel to all the spots the show plays and will be at **The Great Allentown Fair** as an independent on **Powers Great American Midway** show. "I think that's the start of a great relationship and a bright future for both of our companies," said Ben. "I look forward to working with **Corky** and learning a lot from his company. He has set a standard in this industry. That is what my dad and I are striving to achieve."

The Douglasville, Pa.-based carnival typically operates 15 – 24 rides at each stop they play during its 28 week season, always remaining 60 miles or less from home. Fire company carnivals and church events are the bulk of its business. Tons of Fun began in 1991 by Ben's parents to help service organizations raise money for their communities. He got involved eight years later. Six years ago, Ben became co-owner after his mother, **Suellen**, retired.

The younger Pfeffer is proud of his operation and his home town spot. "I wanted to debut the wheel here and bring it to my local town and my local fire company. It is one of my better spots of the year."

• tonsoffunshows.com

2019 IAFE Convention & Trade Show



December 1-4

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
San Antonio, Texas

www.iafeconvention.com

iafe
THE
NETWORK!



MIDWAYSCENE

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, Redmond, Ore. recently chose **Geoff Hinds** as its new director. He replaces **Dan Despotopoulos**, who recently retired after 19 years at the helm. Hinds took over earlier this month.

Hinds grew up in the fair business. The past six years he served as chief executive officer of the **San Bernardino County Fairgrounds** and **Adelanto Stadium** in Victorville, Calif. He previously served as the CEO of the **Tulare County Fair** and as the fair and festivals manager of the **San Mateo County (Calif.) Event Center**. Deschutes County Administrator **Tom Anderson** says Hinds is uniquely qualified because of that experience, "But he's also, more recently, developed a skill for other kinds of events that we think could expand the business model at the Fair and Expo Center, other kinds of events to fill up the facility, particularly in the fall and winter."

The 320-acre central Oregon fair, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year runs July 31st through August 4th. This year's theme: "100 Years of Fun Since Day One!" with **Davis Shows NW, Inc.**, (Tygh Valley, Ore.) providing the midway rides.

The **Lamberink Sky Eye**, (Overschild, Groningen, Netherlands) owned by **Michael Woods**, will play the **North Carolina State Fair** October 17-27 in Raleigh. At 155 foot tall, it is billed as one of North America's largest traveling Ferris wheels. It will supplement rides brought in by **Powers Great American Midways**, the carnival that has the spot. Nearly 800 hours of manpower are needed to assemble the 500 piece wheel, using an 80-ton crane.

"North Carolinians who visit the State Fair every year have their traditions, but we never stop trying to wow you," said Agriculture Commissioner **Steve Troxler**. "We've been working to bring this Ferris wheel to Raleigh since it debuted in Florida in 2017. It will definitely be something fairgoers aren't going to want to miss. The wheel is a great addition to all you can see and do at the fair, and I can't wait to see the view from the top. It promises to be spectacular."

Tickets for the Sky Eye are \$6 in advance or \$7 at the gate.

A time honored tradition is no more, thanks to out-of-town thugs. The **Aston Township (Pa.) Fire Department's** annual carnival has been closed permanently after a melee erupted during their five-day event in mid-April. Police from several departments throughout Delaware County were called during the third evening of the carnival to help break up a massive brawl that resulted in six arrests. Witnesses said it was like a stampede. The skirmish stemmed from a disagreement between two rival groups from out of town.

The fire department issued a statement saying the carnival — a major fundraiser that was scheduled to run through Saturday — would instead be immediately shuttered. They also said no further carnivals would be held because the event has "turned into a landing spot for out-of-town troublemakers." There have been similar incidents over the years.

Skelly's Amusements has had the spot for 26 years, playing twice a year: mid-April and for a week after Labor Day each September.

There are numerous promotions of staff with the **Wisconsin State Fair Park** organization. It was done as part of a re-organization creating more clearly defined divisions within the organization, each overseen by a Chief Officer. The divisions include finance, marketing, operations, police & public safety and state fair programming.

Shari Black has been named the chief programs officer, overseeing the state fair programming division. Black was hired at State Fair Park in 2016 as the senior director of event services, focusing on non-fair events as well as **SpinCity**, the state fair's amusement ride and game area. **Chris Kowieski** has been named chief operating officer, overseeing the operations division. Kowieski joined the State Fair Park staff 24 years ago as a facilities laborer, working his way up to a facilities shift supervisor before his career took a different path. **Jen Puente** has been named chief marketing officer, overseeing the marketing division. Puente has worked at State Fair Park for nearly 15 years in various sponsorship and marketing roles, most recently serving as director of marketing & partnerships since 2016. **Jaime Kwiatkowski** has been named director of entertainment, events & guest relations, serving within the state fair programming division. She will book entertainment for the main stage presented by **Potawatomi Hotel & Casino** and several other stages and events during the state fair, as well as oversee the guest relations department.

The **Charlotte (N.C.) Spring Fair** has implemented changes that took effect with this year's edition. The venue was moved to Bruton Smith Boulevard, across from the **Charlotte Motor Speedway** after being forced from its previous location, on short notice. **Dreamland Amusements** is also the new carnival provider for the mid-March event.

"It was challenging that we had to move," said **Larry Linton** who has coordinated the event the past nine years. "Trying to get to a new location, getting a new carnival, and starting over in two months was rough. We were renting the previous space for four years and then we were forced to move. We barely were able to do it, but it ended up being successful."

"We only had 10 days of the fair this year instead of 17," Linton said, adding that attendance was down a bit because of this factor. "But it was a good fair for those 10 days. So if we're just counting the ten days, attendance was up."

"Endless Fun!" is the theme of the upcoming **Central Washington State Fair**, September 20-29 in Yakima. Staff of the annual fair is working on several new attractions included an expanded Science and Technology building with several new exhibits featuring robotics and hands-on virtual reality displays. **Butler Amusements** is the carnival provider. They have been with the fair since the early 1990s.

Erie County Fair to host first ever drone masters

HAMBURG, N.Y. — The **Erie County Agricultural Society** and **No Limit FPV** have reached an agreement with the **Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI)** and **MultiGP** to hold the first ever North American Drone Masters on Aug. 10 - 11. The drone masters will take place during the **Erie County Fair** inside the **Gusto Grandstand** and will be a free event with paid admission to the Erie County Fair. The event is sponsored in part by **T-Mobile**.

"Since the 1840s, the 'need for speed' has been part of the Erie County Fair experience," said **Marty Biniasz**, the fair's marketing manager. "In the 1800s, it was harness racing that entertained fairgoers with days filled with trotters and pacers. Starting in the 1920s, the roar of gasoline-powered engines filled the grandstand as auto racing attracted tens of thousands to the 'Hamburg Oval.' Today, the 'need for speed' has returned to the fairgrounds with the North American Drone Masters."

This race will be the first ever "masters" level drone competition to be held in the region and is part of the **2019 Masters Series** of drone races. As a **Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI)** sanctioned event, this exclusive race is expected to attract drone teams from across the world.

The event will be one of only three "masters" level races being held in the world during 2019. Other races will be held in Barcelona, Spain, and Seoul, South Korea. In addition to \$10,000 in purse money, the top three pilots from the races held at the Erie County Fair will gain a spot at the 2019 FAI World Championship Grand

Final in China held at the end of November.

"This is the future of high tech, motorized spectator sports," said Erie County Fair Manager and CEO **Jessica Underberg**. "Staging an event of this class and complexity has yet to be accomplished in the fair industry. With the inaugural North American Drone Masters, we take great pride in being innovators in technology-infused, drone-based entertainment."

The racecourse track — to be constructed in front of the grandstand seating — is being designed to include tight, hairpin curves and straightaways that will facilitate speeds of up to 80 mph. The track will be contained behind safety nets designed to keep drones in and spectators at a safe distance. Pilots flying will be staged in front of the spectators with live video feeds from each of their drones so the crowd may follow along and experience the race with them. The excitement of the race will include commentary by **Joe Scully**, a globally known announcer of drone races and rodeos.

The North American Drone Masters will be held over two days with qualifying heats taking place between 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. inside the Fair's infield area on Saturday, Aug. 10 and the grand finals scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Gusto Grandstand.

Fairgoers looking to learn more about drones and the thrill of flying a model airplane will be able to explore the Academy of Model Aeronautics' simulator. The display will be located at Fair's I-Hub STEM technology Center Aug. 7-9.

•ecfair.org



The Erie County Fair will host one of only three masters level drone races in the world. COURTESY ERIE COUNTY FAIR

WATER PARKS & RECREATION

► Aquatica opens KareKare Curl — page 32 / Epic Waters expands outdoors — page 34

Nashville's SoundWaves water park opens, doesn't miss a beat

AT: Pam Sherborne

psherborne@amusementtoday.com

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — What began as one of the most aggressive expansions plans ever at Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center came to full fruition on May 16 with a grand opening of the outdoor and final portion of the SoundWaves water park. The official opening was May 17.

In early 2017, officials with Ryman Hospitality Properties Inc., owner of the Gaylord properties, announced a \$90 million improvement and expansion plan. That included the plans for the water park, which has both a year-round, 111,000-square-foot indoor portion and a seasonal, 106,000-square-foot outdoor section.

Gaylord Opryland officials wanted the design to be upscale, classy, innovative and Nashville-themed. It seems they are very pleased with the results.

The architect for the project was BLUR Workshop out of Atlanta, Ga. Aquatic Development Group (ADG), Cohoes, N.Y., collaborated with BLUR on the project.

According to Julie St. Louis, ADG's marketing and communications specialist, ADG utilized the design, architecture and brand of Gaylord hotels as inspiration to carry through the design and assortment of the water attractions. ADG was the designer and builder of all pools and supplied all necessary equipment for the project such as wave generation systems in the wave pool, action river, the Double FlowRider surf attraction and all necessary filtration.

"SoundWaves indoor/outdoor water experience is leading a change in the way people perceive resort water," St. Louis



Above, at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the outdoor portion of SoundWaves are (from right) entertainer Craig Morgan; Metro Nashville Council member Jeff Syracuse; Colin Reed, CEO, Ryan Hospitality Properties, Inc.; John Adams, vice president and marketing general manager, Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center; Mike Stengel of Gaylord Hotel Brand at Marriott International; Staff Sgt. Rob Cesternino of the Tennessee National Guard, with his son, Lucas; and Dave Andrews, general manager, SoundWaves. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

said. "The inspiration behind the design is tailoring the water experience for not only children but for adult enjoyment as well. ADG and BLUR accomplished this at SoundWaves by combining fun active play, high-end architecture and adult upscale amenities, creating the ultimate resort water experience."

The water park was built on five levels. St. Louis said the level-style of design was a challenge from the design and construction standpoint.

"We worked through that prior to construction in order to get open on time and on budget," St. Louis said. "ADG had to work through the functionality of having bodies of water elevated over other areas of the park. The levels gave an added architectural experience and allows for a larger footprint and higher levels of capacity for the property."

Even the corridor leading from the lobby area into the indoor portion of the park is sleek,

with windows on one side and a wall with painted waves on the other. It emanates a sense of entering an aquarium instead of a water park.

The temperature indoors is a tropical 84 degrees. The innovatively-designed roof lets in natural sunlight giving guests the opportunity to sunbathe year-round.

The music theme is used extensively throughout, exactly to the plans of fusing music and water together. Even the attractions' names play into that theme.

Proslide Technology supplied all the slides. Inside attractions include the Stage Dive Body Slides and Record Launch. Both attractions incorporate LED lighting, sound and thrills.

The Rapid Remix is the park's mega raft ride. The rafts can hold four or five guests. They are taken through a series of vortex loops, complete with 21 LED lights and 12 music speakers. Up Tempo Rapids River ride features waterfalls



SoundWaves features both a year-round 111,000-square-foot indoor portion and a seasonal, 106,000-square-foot outdoor section. AT/PAM SHERBORNE

and spray components. Down Tempo Lazy River features cavernous rocks with LED lighting.

Crowd Surfer is the park's double FlowRider. There also is a Groovin' Lagoon Activity Pool for kids, as well as the Quarter Note Cove and Half Note Cove. The coves feature multi-level activity elements.

Outdoors, there is a 45-foot-tall slide tower where several slides are located. They are the Beat Drop, a near-vertical drop slide, and the Bass Drop, a high-speed, open-flume body ride where guests free fall and plunge into a six-foot deep pool. There also is a four-lane Rock'N Racer featuring tight

360-degree turns.

Rising Stars Stage is the outdoor children's play area. The wave pool, called the Tidal Track, generates waves every 10 to 15 seconds. The pool is six feet deep, complete with a giant LED screen that can be viewed from the water or the hundreds of feet of shoreline.

The Diamond Pool is the adults-only flat water pool.

SoundWaves' eating establishments haven't been left out of the music theme. There is the Decibels, a restaurant with indoor and outdoor eating areas, plus two outdoor food trucks and multiple bars. The Status Cymbal is an adults-only pool and bar. It is located on the top level.

There are 12 rental cabanas outside as well as several inside.

SoundWaves is open only to guests of Opryland Hotel. Jessica Howard, a spokesperson for SoundWaves, said there is a separate fee for guests wanting to visit the water park while staying at the hotel. Guests may choose to go one day or the entire length of their stay. They are given a wrist band, which allows them to enter and exit on their own.

•marriott.com



Painted waves adorn the lobby area walls (left). Proslide Technology supplied all of the water slides including Rock'N Racer (middle). Crowd Surfer, the park's double FlowRider (right), is certain to have the attention of many thrillseeking guests.

AT/PAM SHERBORNE

AN INDUSTRY REIMAGINED

Nothing drives relationships, riders and revenue faster than iconic ProSlide rides.

Together, OCT and ProSlide have powered nine legendary water parks across China, ushering in a new era of waterpark entertainment fueled by elite high-performance ProSlide attractions.

When you find an award-winning relationship, never let it go.



PROSLIDE.COM



HydroMAGNETIC® PIPEline™
OCT SHANGHAI MAYA WATERPARK
CHINA

SeaWorld Orlando's Aquatica debuts KareKare Curl from ProSlide

ORLANDO, Fla. — KareKare Curl, the newest ride adventure at SeaWorld Orlando's Aquatica, opened to the public on Friday, April 12, 2019. *Amusement Today* was on hand the day prior to experience what the park has dubbed "a feeling of weightlessness" aboard the new ProSlide Technology, Inc. wave wall installation.

A Māori dance ceremony with native dancing and drums welcomed media outlets who were on hand to preview KareKare Curl. "KareKare" means waves/surf in the Māori language, and Aquatica has paired the word with "Curl" referring to the ride's curved shape wall at the base of the slide's enclosed 35-foot drop. The park feels this perfectly describes the curve-shaped wave riders will experience when climbing the vertical wave wall before emptying in a splash-down pool. The park describes the ride as a "high-adrenaline, weightless adventure, making Aquatica Orlando's leader for water park thrills." As such, the ride has a 48-inch height requirement.

Aquatica has chosen to utilize two-person circular rafts on the attraction in which riders



KareKare Curl rises five stories over Big Surf Shores and Cutback Cove Wave Pools. Riders experience a moment of zero-gravity at the climax of KareKare Curl (above middle). Māori Native Dancers (inset, right) welcomed media attendees with dancing and drum performances. AT/DAVID FAKE

face each other while traversing the ride's 361 feet. Because the movement of the raft is unpredictable, KareKare Curl offers a unique experience on each ride. Speed, ride duration, and the height reached by the raft on the wave wall is directly influenced by the combined weight of the riders (which may not exceed 250 lbs. per person, or

400 lbs., combined).

"It is the first time we've used a vehicle like that," said Aquatica's Vice President David Heaton. "The weightlessness moment at the apex of the curl makes your stomach float. It's so much fun, because you are facing each other and can see the expression on each other's face as you're riding."

KareKare Curl, which took six months to build, is situated picturesquely next to the side-by-side wave pools, Big Surf Shores and Cutback Cove, directly across the pathway from Omaka Rocka. The area the attraction occupies was previously used for private cabana rentals, which have been relocated within the park.

In keeping with the park's recent commitment to add an attraction each year, KareKare Curl is the second attraction to be opened by Aquatica in less than a year. Last year's new attraction, Ray Rush, opened in May 2018 and was the recipient of the Golden Ticket Award for Best New Water Park Ride 2018.

—David Fake

The new North Point Aquatic Center in Sarasota, Fla., is expected to open in July. The \$12 million center, which has been in the works since 2010, broke ground on June 30, 2018, and is now nearing completion. The center includes a 25-meter stretch pool, a lazy river, a kids activity pool with zero entry, two body slides, a bowl slide, shade structures, a bath house with locker rooms, and a small concession area. The 25-meter stretch pool will be able to accommodate 25-yard or 25-meter lap swimming and competitions. Originally planned in 2010, the project was shelved in 2011 following a downturn in the economy. The plans were resurrected in 2017.

The city of Houston, Texas, plans to replace a municipal swimming pool at West Side Park with proceeds from a \$250,000 grant. The city received notification that it was to receive a federal Land, Water and Conservation Fund grant for the project. The current pool, built in the 1970s, will be replaced with an eight-lane pool and other amenities for \$1.2 million. The remainder of the funding will come from a one-cent sales tax that was approved by voters. Fifty percent of the proceeds from that tax is dedicated to parks and recreation. Work was recently completed at the site on a 20-foot by 30-foot splash pad with a variety of interactive water features. That splash pad opened to the public, Memorial Day weekend. Upon completion of the facility, West Side Park will include the aforementioned pool and splash pad as well as a zero entry kids area with animal spouts; reinstallation of the current waterslide, rock climbing, a low-dive board, zipline, adjustable basketball goal and a swim lift that meets federal disability standards. No plans are being made to update the current bath house.



NEWS SPLASH

AT: Jeffrey L. Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

A long-awaited splash pad in Ridgecrest, Calif., opened in May, welcoming the summer crowds. First suggested by Councilwoman Lindsey Stephens in February 2017, the project was well-received and expected to serve as stop-gap until the city could reopen its Pinney Pool. That pool was forced to close because it was not compliant with ADA requirements. A wheelchair-bound citizen complained and filed a lawsuit claiming there was no wheelchair access to the pool itself, no pool lift, inaccessible restrooms and other obstacles that made it extremely difficult for him to use the facilities. The lawsuit was settled for \$70,000.

Upgrading the pool to make it compliant was estimated to cost between \$1 to \$3 million. In order to avoid another lawsuit the city closed the pool to everyone on January 18, 2017.

As the city concentrated its efforts on the pool, plans for the splash pad were set aside, even though the city council had already approved \$750,000 for the splash pad. 2018 came and went and although work was being done on both, neither facility opened.

Contractors have pledged to assist with donation of materials bringing the estimated cost to reopen the pool down to \$500,000. Fundraisers have been held to help cover the costs, but the pool still remains closed.

Ridgecrest is in the High Desert geographic area of California with hot, dry weather all summer

long and triple-digit averages in July and August. The community considers the pool and water features a public necessity. For the immediate future, the splash pad will have to suffice.

Splashtown USA water park in Houston, Texas, is once again operating as a Six Flags park. The former Hanna-Barbera Land turned water park was originally acquired by Six Flags in 1999. Following the Red Zone takeover of Six Flags in 2006 and divestiture of properties, the water park was sold to PARC Management who in turn sold it to CNL Properties. CNL contracted Premier Parks LLC to operate the park. In 2013 CNL Properties acquired the rights to use the Wet'n'Wild brand from Village Roadshow and the park was renamed Wet'n'Wild SplashTown. In 2016 the park was sold again, this time to EPR Properties. Premier continued to operate the park. Last year, Six Flags entered into a purchase agreement with Premier Parks LLC to acquire the lease rights to five of its properties, including SplashTown. For the 2019 season, Six Flags upgraded the park, added Wahoo Wave — a new ProSlide Tornado Wave 60, and has once again rebranded the park as Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Splashtown.

The Texas Pool in Plano, Texas, has been recognized as the first swimming pool shaped like Texas and was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Texas Pool is the earliest known example of a swimming pool shaped like the state of Texas and represents the adoption of the state shape as a highly-recognized icon in the mid-20th century. The pool, built in 1961 is located in the Dallas North Estates residential neighborhood.



PADDING

**ALL TYPES OF SLIDE &
POOL SIDE PADDING**



**PADDING FOR ANY
LOCATION**



**WATER
TRAMPOLINES**



TUBES



FLOATATION COLLARS

+1(513) 829-5533
FAX +1(513) 892-7466
ZEBEC@ZEBEC.COM
WWW.ZEBEC.COM



**INLINE
RAFTS**



**UPHILL
RAFTS**



**ROUND
RAFTS**



RAFTS



**SIDEWINDER
BUMPER**



**SIDEWINDER
TUBES**



Heavy-Duty Single, Double, Tear-Drop, 3 and 4 Person Clover Tubes made in USA with extra heavy material and overlapped, heat-welded seams

HEAVY DUTY TUBES



**Diamond
Raft**



BUMPER BOAT TUBES



**INFLATABLE
BARRIERS**



HT Heavy Triple Tube

LILY PAD WALK



COMPLETE LILY PAD WALK SETUP
• FOAM Lily Floats
• Overhead Netting
• Entry Pool Side Padding



RAPID RIVER RAFT



**FOAM
MATS**



SNOW TUBES & RAFTS



PLAY NETTING



ROPE & NETTING

WhiteWater West supplies addition

North Texas' Epic Waters expands outdoors, opens wave pool

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — Exceeding its projected attendance expectations for its first year of operation, **Epic Waters Indoor Waterpark**, which opened in January 2018, has now grown. On May 4, the water park opened Epic Waves, a 300,000-gallon wave pool.

Turning again to **WhiteWater West**, Epic Waters has expanded beyond the 80,000-square-foot glassy architecture and stretched into the Texas outdoors. As guests exit doors at the back end of the indoor facility, they are greeted by the newest wave pool in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

Epic Waves' most distinctive feature (and no doubt its most popular) is the periodic simulated surge of four-foot high waves, which will run for 10-minute intervals throughout the day.

"This wave pool creates an addition of about 25 new jobs," said **Michael Hays**, general manager. "It's a new certification we will now have as the pool has deep water. We had excited people eager for this certification."



The 300,000-gallon wave pool adds up to 500 people in additional capacity. AT/TIM BALDWIN

Poolside amenities include private cabanas available for rental, concessions, and complimentary innertubes and life jackets. Guests will continue to enjoy the pool until Labor Day 2019 before closing the outdoor attraction for the season. Access to the pool is included in the cost of admission, which did not see an increase with the opening of the new pool. Epic Waters Indoor Waterpark is open year-round and is the largest indoor water park under a single retractable roof in North America.

Guests can enjoy the surf along the pool's beach entry or

relax on one of the pool deck's shaded chaise lounge chairs to bask in the sun throughout the summer.

"This adds an additional 500 people to our capacity, so that increases the park capacity by 25 percent," said **Richard Coleman**, principal, **American Resort Management**.

In addition to the new wave pool, guests also have a new option this summer in the form of the Epic Combo, a "wet-dry" admission option that provides day-long access to facilities and programming at The Epic, the water park's sister property that



is located across the corridor from Epic Waters. The Epic is a 120,000-square-foot fitness, arts, and entertainment destination that opened in November.

The May wave pool opening was a long time in coming. "We were handed 'the keys' last Labor Day," chuckled Coleman. "We figured that was the wrong time to open it, so we decided to roll it out as a new attraction for 2019. We did an Epic Plunge in February, which was the first real test for the body of water, and that raised money for **PlayGrand Adventures**." On the morning of Epic Waves' opening, Epic

Waters Indoor Waterpark gave a check for \$2,300 to PlayGrand Adventures, an adjacent city park that is being built to welcome family members of all abilities, which is set to open in November.

"Another thing that excites us is that it gives us more area for additional programming for guests who are tired of being in the water. We can do all kinds of events and contests," said Coleman. "It gives us dry spaces all the way around."

"You add about another 300-400 more seats. Lounge chairs are going to be the most popular seating in the park," said Hays. He noted that even with cooler morning temperatures on opening day, people were still claiming their spots.

Coleman said that the new wave pool is key to the water park's ongoing efforts to differentiate the Epic Waters experience from other family entertainment options in the region. "Every day we wake up with the goal of providing a world-class, epic experience that stands apart from anything else that's available in Texas and keeps our guests coming back for more," he commented.

Largest surf park taking shape in South Korea



COURTESY WAVEGARDEN

SIHEUNG CITY, South Korea — Groundbreaking took place in May to commemorate the start of a Wavegarden Cove at **Siheung Surf Park**. Upon completion, it will be the largest man-made surf park in the world. The ceremony was attended by more than 500 VIPs, including **Choi Sam-seob**, the director of the wave park; **Lee Jae-myung**, governor of Gyeonggi province; **Lim Byoung-taek**, the mayor of Siheung City; **Lee Hak-soo**, the president of **Korea Water Resources Corporation**; and Wavegarden's Chief Commercial Officer, **Fernando Odriozola**.

Plans for the Siheung Surf Park, which will include a nearly mile-long beach, were initially unveiled last November when the key parties signed a joint business agreement to turn project into reality. The first stage will include the creation of Asia's first Wavegarden Cove on a site covering 42 acres. The cove is on track to open to the public in 2020.

For stage two of the development, the **Daewon Plus Group** will invest approximately \$480 million to construct a hotel, convention center, marina and Ferris wheel. Siheung, a city formerly known for its industrial manufacturing business, is in the process of transforming itself into an epicenter for tourism and leisure. The city is located within an hour's drive from the capital city of Seoul and is anticipating drawing more than two million visitors per year.

Rainer Maelzer steps down from Weigand.Maelzer

STARNBERG, Germany — After more than 12 years of international and cooperative development of **Wiegand.Maelzer GmbH**, **Rainer Maelzer** left the company in May.

Maelzer succeeded in expanding the market position of Wiegand.Maelzer from a European manufacturer of waterslides to a global player. He contributed significantly to the development and expansion of well-known European water parks such as Germany's **Therme Erding**.

Wiegand.Maelzer originally made a name for itself with its stainless steel slides, the first of which has been operating since 1981. In the past five years, Wiegand.Maelzer has made great strides in establishing itself as a leading suppliers for cruise ships. Wiegand.Maelzer has customers all over the world and is considered to be an innovative company in the water park industry.

Longtime business partner



Maelzer

and managing director **Hendrik Wiegand** has taken over management of the company. He is supported by the existing team and by **Thomas Schmitt**, a project leader with Wiegand with 27 years of industry experience. The company will operate under the name **Wiegand.waterrides GmbH**. At the IAAPA Expo Asia, the company plans to showcase more new innovative product ideas.

Despite the change of the company name, the team of Wiegand.Maelzer will remain at the same location, with the same service-oriented, professional and reliable, team members. The stainless steel and FRP products are still manufactured by the production company, **Josef Wiegand**.

In order to further advance the company's success and better meet the demands of the market Wiegand.waterrides GmbH is planning to collaborate with **WhiteWater West** of Canada. As of April, WhiteWater has taken over worldwide sales of the innovative SlideWheel water slide. Last year that product won Weigand a coveted IAAPA Impact Award.



The future is insight

See the whole picture, and all its parts, by harnessing the power of real-time data to revolutionize guest experience and operational efficiency.

Visit us June 12th-14th at IAAPA Expo Asia in Shanghai at booth #1430 or visit vantage.co and start asking yourself what's next.

Rider verification: 5'5" and 130lbs

Front-of-line access: available

Parental controls: on

Dispatch rate: 45 secs

Wait time: 5:30 mins



WHITewater.
EST. 1980

REGISTER FOR THE WWA SHOW AT WALT DISNEY WORLD® RESORT



As to Disney properties, © Disney

THE WWA SHOW brings you face to face with some of the most brilliant people working in waterparks and waterpark resorts all over the world. Reenergize yourself and your business by attending our high-impact educational programs and networking with our innovative exhibitors. Visit WWAShow.org to book your room at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and get registered today. Questions? Call +1-913-599-0300.

WORLD WATERPARK ASSOCIATION SHOW
OCTOBER 7-10, 2019
WALT DISNEY WORLD® RESORT
LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLORIDA, U.S.A.

WWASHOW.ORG



BUSINESS & NEWSMAKERS

► Chance Zipper delivers 50 years of thrills — page 40 / IRM celebrates 30th anniversary — page 46

Worlds of Fun increases its restaurant offerings with historic flair

AT: Tim Baldwin

tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — In recent years, **Worlds of Fun** has reinvested in some of the basic cornerstones of the park experience. A new front gate set the stage when introduced two years back. Improvements in landscaping and theming have made a noticeable impact. For this season, the park has devoted much effort to the dining experience.

As guests entered the turnstiles, several new food options were available when Worlds of Fun opened for the 2019 season on April 13. Leading the charge is the brand new, from-the-ground-up Cotton Blossom BBQ. Longtime fans will recognize — and appreciate — the throwback to the early years of the Missouri theme park when the famed *Cotton Blossom* from the movie *Showboat* graced the entry portal.

“We have a very passionate fan base,” said **Chris Foshee**, public relations and communications manager. “We knew that acknowledging our park history was important. That nostalgia is very powerful. It’s gone over very well.”

Positioned near the original location of the famed boat (removed several years ago for structural reasons), the new restaurant captures some of the flair that brings back memories to second- and third-generation fans through its signage and styling. Porch-style seating and a patio allows those wishing to relax to take in views of the park’s high-profile coasters and attractions nearby with its tribute to the park history



Cotton Blossom BBQ is a themed restaurant that returns to Worlds of Fun’s park history. COURTESY WORLDS OF FUN

dating back to 1973.

Inside, the new 9,000-square-foot facility is able to seat more than 300 guests. Menu items include Kansas City barbecue, rotisserie chicken, homestyle sides and desserts, as well as healthy options like salads and fresh vegetables.

“With the recent addition of our Executive Chef **Wesley Boston**, the culinary team has continuously found ways to elevate the park’s food offerings,” said **Tony Carovillano**, general manager of Worlds of Fun. “Now with a new flagship dining location, Cotton Blossom BBQ will help us continue these tremendous strides by creating a dining experience that is as memorable as our rides.”

“We’re in Kansas City, so its barbecue. But with Kansas City barbecue, when you say that here, it better be authentic,” Foshee told *Amusement Today*. “We’ve received a lot

of rave reviews about it this season. We go all out from our house-made rub — we spent the off-season experimenting making sure we put out a good product — to the blend of wood we use to smoke our barbecue. We took it a step further; we make our own homestyle sauces here in the park. We have three sauces we make here: regular, hot and spicy, and sweet and mild.”

The new flagship restaurant

is one of five new dining locations this season and is included in the park’s dining plan.

“Our chef says, ‘We want you to come for the rides, but remember the food.’ I think we have risen the bar with house-crafted menu items,” said Foshee.

This season, Worlds of Fun will also join three other Cedar Fair properties to offer Grand Carnivale, a new inter-



national festival. According to Worlds of Fun, it will be the largest summer event in park history, featuring an elaborate parade with illuminated floats, live entertainment, crafts, music, specialty food and craft beverages. Sections of the park will transform to immerse guests in the traditions and cultures from around the world. The flavor of China, France, Germany, India and Italy will be on display during the festival, which in many ways mimics the original themes of the park based on *Around the World in 80 Days*. The Spectacle of Color parade will be offered nightly at 8:00. Foshee reported that live performances will take place on the illuminated floats.

The dates Worlds of Fun will offer Grand Carnivale are July 13 through August 4. The three other sister parks to offer the festival are **Kings Dominion**, **Kings Island** and **Dorney Park**.

•worldsoffun.com



The famed Cotton Blossom (left) was an icon in the park when Worlds of Fun opened in 1973. Signage on the new restaurant (right) offers a throwback to the original Cotton Blossom. COURTESY WORLDS OF FUN



Company spearheads Saudi Arabia family entertainment push

Saudi Entertainment Ventures paves way for cinemas, fun

DUBAI — With a total of US\$64 billion in attractions development planned for Saudi Arabia over the next decade, the future of family-friendly entertainment in the Middle Eastern country appears very bright, according to **Bill Ernest**, CEO of **Saudi Entertainment Ventures** (SEVEN).

Ernest, a former **Walt Disney Co.** executive and a veteran of the entertainment sector, discussed the prognosis for attractions in Saudi Arabia — and his company's contributions in creating them — in late March during a keynote speech at the annual gathering of the **Middle**

East and North Africa Leisure & Attractions Council in Dubai. The conference was held concurrently with the **Dubai Entertainment, Amusement & Leisure Exhibition**, the region's largest and longest-running industry event.

Established in December 2017 by the **Public Investment Fund** (PIF) of Saudi Arabia, SEVEN, in partnership with Leawood, Kan.-based global cinema operator **AMC Theatres**, is behind the first cinemas to open in the country in more than 35 years. Future plans call for the creation of



Ernest

large, multi-activity entertainment centers, each featuring a cinema; augmented reality attractions; entertainment and live shows; dining venues; and open green areas equipped for sports and aquatics.

The first of these projects is planned for the Saudi capital of Riyadh. Attractions development is part of the country's economic blueprint promoted as **2030 Vision**, containing far-reaching plans for diversification away from its reliance on oil and gas revenues.

Employment is key to the blueprint, as well.

"Our offerings will create exciting new roles for ambitious young Saudi nationals," Ernest said. "We

will need to provide training in new skill sets. While employing locals, we also want to create friendly, awe-inspiring environments where Saudi nationals will want to spend quality time with their family and friends."

He added that PIF expects SEVEN's projects to provide more than 22,000 direct jobs while serving more than 50 million visitors by 2030.

"We aim to facilitate the presence of both international and local brands," Ernest said. "Through our role as investor, developer and operator of various entertainment offerings... SEVEN aims to be the leader in Saudi Arabia's entertainment ecosystem."

—Dean Lamanna

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk grows rep for big-screen screams

'Us' and 'Bumblebee' among films keeping park in the spotlight

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — At the age of 112, **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk** is almost as old as Hollywood. With that moviemaking mecca down the coast often sending crews north to film at the California Historical Landmark, it appears that, over the decades, mutual admiration between the two locations has grown.

The seaside park, already an iconic cinematic backdrop thanks to hit movies such as the **Clint Eastwood** thriller *Sudden Impact* (1983) and the vampire flick *The Lost Boys* (1987), plays a key supporting role in several recent high-profile Hollywood projects — including the *Transformers* action spin-off *Bumblebee* and the **Jordan Peele** horrorfest *Us*. The combined worldwide box office gross of the latter two motion pictures exceeded \$721 million as *Amusement Today* went to press.

Marq Lipton, vice president of marketing and sales for Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, told AT that the park's film industry appeal crosses geography and generations. "It is the quintessential American boardwalk," he said. "Production companies can use our location as a seaside park to represent any region of the county and, most importantly, any period of time. From the 1920s to the present day, our park has it."

Allowing Hollywood to shoot onsite is not always a given. The park is mindful of its image and requires review and approval of script portions dealing with any aspect of the property and city.



During the making of his latest hit horror movie, *Us*, at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, writer-director **Jordan Peele** (*Get Out*) posed with the **Giant Dipper** coaster and rode it with his crew. COURTESY SANTA CRUZ BEACH BOARDWALK, UNIVERSAL PICTURES (STILL)



"We do this to see how they portray Santa Cruz and the Boardwalk," Lipton said. "Our biggest concerns relate to cleanliness and safety, as well as presentation and hospitality of employees. We will refuse a project that portrays us negatively in those areas."

"We realize that if the film is successful, having our name as the location will likely be a positive. We'd be much more likely to refuse a movie that focused on a more realistic subject. In other words, we don't have a problem with zombies and vampires — the public can separate reality from fiction — but we'd take issue with crime and terrorism."

While being part of a private company can allow Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk more decision-making freedom than major corporate theme park chains, whose properties typically are shown unidentified and/or altered in movies, music videos and television shows, Lipton acknowledged that the park owner **Santa Cruz Seaside Co.** has tightened up its production permission contracts.

"We had a major movie filmed here in the 1980s that referred to a crime that took



Filming for *Bumblebee* took place in and around the park last September. The landmark property was renamed **Brighton Falls Boardwalk** for the shoot. COURTESY SANTA CRUZ BEACH BOARDWALK, PARAMOUNT (STILL)



place 'under the Boardwalk.' We wanted to refuse the film because of that, but the producers said they would move the incident to another location. When the movie came out, [the scene] was still in, and we found out that our signed agreement didn't cover our complaint. We have a different agreement now."

With production crews come varying degrees of disruption, Lipton acknowledged, and safety is always the park's top priority.

"We instruct crews to obey all instructions from Boardwalk staff or they will be asked to leave, and our ride mechanics have ultimate say on what is permissible on or around rides. Our contract states

the specifics of what is approved to avoid any gray areas. For major films like *Us* and *Bumblebee* — both were filmed last September on weekdays, when rides weren't operating — sections of the park were closed to the public. Our park is open-gate, so extra security is required."

Bringing its location-shoot popularity full circle, the park recently hosted the filming of scenes for a *Lost Boys* TV series pilot for the **CW Network**. "We anticipate that if the show is picked up, we may receive another request to film at our location," said Lipton, adding that, due to customer demand, the park hosts screenings of the

original *Lost Boys* movie on the beach every summer.

On the attractions front, two new flat rides are debuting at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk by the end of June: *Twirlin' Teacups*, a **Zamperla** Midi Tea Cup, and *Crazy Surf*, a **Technical Park** Super Miami. The *Laser Tag* game inside the *Neptune's Kingdom* arcade has been upgraded from top to bottom, including a new façade and LED arena.

Also, until Aug. 16, the park is running a photo / illustration / creative writing contest celebrating the 95th anniversary of the *Giant Dipper* wooden roller coaster, a National Historic Landmark.

•beachboardwalk.com



THE GLOBAL **ATTRACTIONS**
INDUSTRY'S PREMIER EVENT

NEW NAME. NEW OPPORTUNITIES.

IAAPA ATTRACTIONS EXPO IS **NOW IAAPA EXPO.**

SAVE THE DATE

CONFERENCE: Nov. 18-22, 2019 | **TRADE SHOW:** Nov. 19-22, 2019

ORLANDO, FL, US



www.IAAPA.org/IAAPAE expo

Chance's Zipper, 50 years of thrills for a king of the midway

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

WICHITA, Kan. — **Golden Wheel Amusements** has called it, "The most requested midway ride of all time!"

Ask any seasoned carnival midway enthusiast what their favorite ride is and many will cite the **Chance Zipper**.

"The Zipper is arguably one of the most popular thrill rides in America for teenagers and thrill seekers," states **Talley Amusements**, while **Butler Amusements, Inc.** feels it "...is a must for all adventure seekers."

Birth of a company

Building small trains for the **Ottaway Amusement Company** since 1946, **Richard "Harold" Chance** incorporated **Chance Manufacturing Co., Inc.** in 1961. Located in Wichita, Kansas, and now known as **Chance Rides, Inc.**, the company's initial ride offering became its flagship ride: the C.P. Huntington Train. It continues to be found in amusement parks, zoos and other amusement locations.

Today, the third generation operates **Chance Rides** as it manufactures numerous roller coasters, carousels, trains, trams, wheels and other amusement rides including the Yo-Yo, Pharaoh's Fury, Freestyle, Revolution and, of course, the Zipper.

What is it?

Skelly's Amusements describes the Zipper as "a giant rotating chainsaw that flips riders in all sorts of directions."



First generation Zipper ad, circa 1970 (above). The overall design of the Zipper is from the 1928 Swooper ride. At right, a Zipper flips at Trimmer's Rides, Ocean City, Maryland.

COURTESY STEFAN HINZ; JOEL STYER

Popular at carnivals and amusement parks in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the Zipper has a long, rotating, oval boom with a cable around its edge pulling 12 cars. Seating a maximum of 24 passengers, the 80 foot tall, trailer-mounted ride features dual loading, strong vertical G-forces, numerous spins, and a noted sense of unpredictability.

While it may not be in the modern-day spectacular category, the Zipper delivers thrills that haven't been duplicated. The sling around the end of the oblong frame creates a sudden burst of speed, sending the

compartments flipping end-over-end.

Birth of a thrill

Duane Weichman, Carnival Sales Representative with **Chance Rides**, explained the ride's conception: "In 1968, an employee named **Joe Brown** had a large piece of plywood that was to be used for a frame and as it sat on a pin that went directly through the center of it, the plywood was spinning. He sat a blank piece of paper on it with his pen and it spun making a very interesting design. He had an idea to stand the plywood up and try the same thing and it worked. That is when they started to develop the Zipper."

The overall general design was based on an earlier ride called **The Swooper**. It was invented in 1928 by **Sellner Manufacturing**, the company that introduced the **Tilt-A-Whirl** two years earlier. The **Swooper** also featured a series of cars being pulled along a cable around an oblong framework. The main difference is the ability of the Zipper's frame to rotate as the cars travel along by cable.

"Building the first prototype, they didn't know the seat was going to flip upside down, so they put an open seat on it like a ferris wheel seat," shared current **Chance Rides** Owner and CEO, **Dick Chance**. "My dad and his chief designer at the time, **Joe Brown**, got in it and it went round and round and it never flipped over. Then they got off it and put some sandbags in it, afterwards [the Zipper] put the sandbags out [of the ride]. My Dad said, 'I think we better build a cage around this!' He then came up with the cage seat."



"I guess it seemed like a catchy name," offered **Chance** when asked about the origins of the ride's name. Early advertising used the catchphrase, "How many ways can you revolve around yourself?" "Head Whirling" was another slogan that appeared with a picture of a first generation Zipper.

Zipper number one went to **Bob Hammond Shows**, Houston, Texas, with the second unit going to **Bill Hames Shows**, Fort Worth, Texas. During the inaugural year, 19 Zippers were sold with 16 more the second year and 14 in 1970. To date, **Chance Rides** has manufactured 222 units in the past half-century. Only the one sold to **Galaxyland** at the **West Edmonton Mall**, Edmonton, Alberta, was specifically for an amusement park.

Trimmers Rides, Ocean City, Md., currently operates one that came off of the portable circuit.

It should be noted, most Zippers were manufactured by **Chance Manufacturing** and **Chance Industries, Inc.** from 1968 to 2001. In 2015, a Zipper was

built for **Skinner's Amusements**, Marengo, Ill.

Tragedy brings reform

The Pennsylvania ride safety inspection program grew out of an August 1977 Zipper accident at the **Bedford County Fair**. Due to the cotter safety pin in the door unexpectedly becoming loose and the door opening mid-ride. The two riders were tossed out, taking the life of a 14-year old teen rider (head injury) and breaking the tailbone of her ride partner. The following year, the ride had an extra latch on the side, in addition to the one on the front of the cage.

In 1978, there was an industry-wide effort to draft standards for American rides with **Mary Ellen Gilbert**, mother of the teen who lost her life, joining as a non-industry representative.

"What happened then was the accident in New Jersey, the Fun House fire at [Six Flags] **Great Adventure**," said **Joe Filoramo**, supervisor, Amusement Ride Safety Division, **Pennsylvania**

► See ZIPPER, page 42



An indoor zipper at three-week-long I-X Indoor Amusement Park, Cleveland, Ohio. Photo taken in 2008 with the attraction brought in by **Bates Brothers Amusement Co.** COURTESY JOEL STYER

As seen at the 2014 York Fair - owned by **Deggeller Attractions**. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



BUILDING FUN

CHANCE
RIDES®

SEE US AT BOOTH #1250
2019 IAAPA EXPO ASIA

SINCE 1961



TRAINS

Climb aboard a scaled replica of an authentic 1863 locomotive. The C.P. Huntington™ Train is ranked as one of the most popular attractions for guests.



TRAMS

The sleek, maneuverable Sunliner™ II and Tramstar™ LFT (Low-Floor-Tram) are the ultimate People Movers.



CAROUSELS

Artistically crafted for an authentic, distinctive look, each Chance Rides Carousel is a masterpiece.



GO GREEN
Electric
C.P. HUNTINGTON TRAIN



RIDES



PEOPLE MOVERS



COASTERS

SALES@CHANCERIDES.COM • 316.945.6555 • CHANCERIDES.COM

New Parts Store PARTS.CHANCERIDES.COM

►ZIPPER
Continued from page 40

Department of Agriculture. On May 11, 1984, a fire in the Haunted Castle walk-through attraction killed eight teenagers. “When that happened, the bill turned into an act and was passed,” said Filoramo.

After years of Gilbert’s lobbying efforts, Pennsylvania empowered its agriculture department to regulate the industry within the state. The department has inspected and registered amusement rides under the Amusement Ride Safety Act since 1986 and regularly participates in education and outreach seminars that include classes and hands-on demonstrations. Forty-four other states now have ride safety inspection programs.

Through the years

Early Zipper rides spun at higher speeds. The potential safety hazard was quickly discovered and mechanical rpms were lowered to the ride’s current speeds. Manufacturing of the Zipper continued through the next few decades.

“There were several peaks and regressions over the years,” Weichman said. “In the early to mid-1970’s, the drive system was redeveloped and the ride started selling again like it did when it

first came out, remaining steady for several years after. By 1988, there was an average of nine being sold per year.”

New and improved

The iconic midway ride still features the same action that has drawn fans for generations, with revisions that make it easier to own and operate.

“Seating was redeveloped to have an open-facing seat with [over-the-shoulder] harnesses to hold the riders, made for two people, and a front panel to keep the body from getting hit with anything,” said Weichman. In addition to the redundant safety features, new programmable LED lighting upgrades are available that really showcase the Zipper on the midway.

A cult following

Thrill seekers have been known to visit a carnival midway just to ride the Zipper. If it isn’t there, these “Zipperheads” are soon gone to the next venue that may have one in operation. This ride was Michael Jackson’s favorite at his Neverland Ranch. He boasted that one time he rode it for 35 minutes straight. (Butler Amusements now has that ride.)

In 2012, an independent documentary, *Zipper: Coney Island’s Last Wild Ride* by filmmaker Amy Nicholson featured

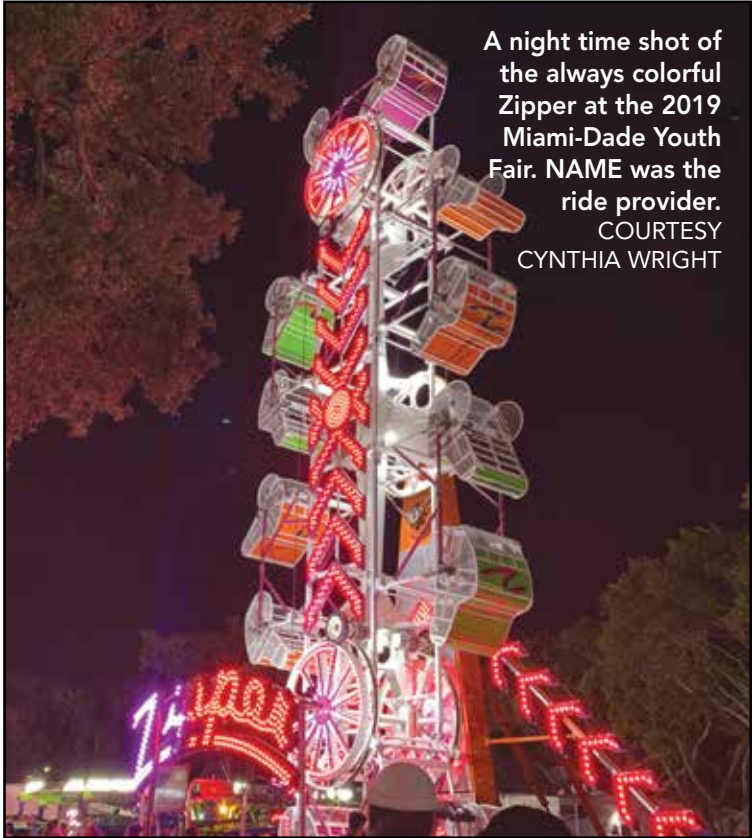


Carny (1980), Charlotte's Web (2006) and the above Amy Nicholson documentary feature the ride. COURTESY IFC

one that was run by an independent operator, Eddie Miranda, at **Coney Island** after coming off the portable circuit in the early 1970’s. The 77-minute documentary is about the amusement area redevelopment and land disputes forcing the ride (and others) to close in 2007. That one re-emerged 3,000 miles away, now owned by carnival operator, **Atracciones Montoya Aguilar**, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

The Zipper has been named by **Popular Mechanics** as one of the strangest amusement rides in the world.

While some carnivals have considered retiring the Zipper, public sentiment keeps the ride



A night time shot of the always colorful Zipper at the 2019 Miami-Dade Youth Fair. NAME was the ride provider. COURTESY CYNTHIA WRIGHT

as a midway mainstay with occasional factory refurbishments and enhancements.

The next half century

“It was one of those rides that kind of revolutionized the carnival industry, because it was one trailer, about 40 feet high, had lots of lights on it,” said Chance, reflecting back on the early years. “It had new action that nobody

had ever seen before and could be set up by a carnival guy in two or three hours. Everybody had to have a Zipper.

“I think it has become the country’s most popular carnival ride, with maybe the exception of the Tilt-A-Whirl. It’s quite an iconic piece on every midway.”

Long live the Zipper, a ride that continues to exhilarate each generation of thrill seekers.



Amusement TODAY

Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

1 Subscription, 1 Low Price, All Formats!

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

\$50 per year

☐ 14 Issues (one year) \$50

☐ 28 Issues (two years) \$90

☐ 42 Issues (three years) \$130



First & Last Name

Company Name

Address

City, State, Zip (or Province & Postal Code)

Country

Credit Card Number

Exp. Date

Name (as it appears on Card)

Telephone (required)

Email (required)

Security Code

QUESTIONS? CALL (817) 460-7220 • Mail to: Amusement Today, PO Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005

Subscribe online at www.AmusementToday.com

OBITUARIES**Francis 'Pat' Guthrie, 72, veteran showman**

THOMASON, Ga. — Francis Patrick Guthrie, a veteran showman, passed away on April 4. He was 72.

Born in August 1946 and raised in Middlesboro, Ky., Guthrie looked forward to the shows that most often visited his hometown: Drew Expositions and Ringling Bros and the Barnum & Bailey Big Top. Developing a strong work ethic at an early age, he held his first carnival in his mid-teens and, by age 18, had purchased a Roll-O-Plane ride.

**Guthrie**

Guthrie, one of five brothers, fanned his siblings' interest in show business — most notably that of his younger brother Ray, with whom he would partner in a number of endeavors. A show owner at age 21 and one of the original 16 members of the Giltown club, he was named the youngest showman by *Billboard* magazine and given the rank of colonel by the state of Kentucky.

Guthrie was known as a leader and a fearless businessman. According to his daughter Becky Guthrie, he logged many miles on the road — and made many memories — building Guthrie Shows, Great American Guthrie Carnival Company, Jules & Beck Combined Big Top Circus, Gribble Bros. Trucking, the Country Store and Jules & Beck Carnival, among other businesses. He got his start in the industry handling bill posting and games for Gold Medal Shows and named the last show he operated in its memory.

"[As] a father, he taught us to do what we love and never give up," said Becky. "As a showman, he did it all — booked the route, wired the generator, drove the truck, put up the circus tent, worked the elephants and tore down the Ferris wheel — and loved it!"

Guthrie was known for maintaining a large collection of vintage Allan Herschell rides, several of which operate at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, Pa. Drew Expositions recently restored a rare Velare Brothers Space Wheel that was purchased from Guthrie.

Guthrie is survived by his wife, Pamela, whom he credited with his success; daughters Julia Guthrie Hann and Becky Guthrie; brothers Ray Guthrie and John Guthrie; and grandsons Samuel Benjamin Hann and Andrew Francis Hann.

Andreas Veilstrup Andersen, president and CEO of **Liseberg** in Gothenberg, Sweden, will be leaving his post for the position of executive vice president at **Tivoli Gardens** in Copenhagen. He will also join the executive committee at the latter park. Andersen has led Liseberg since 2011, overseeing the addition of major attractions and the company's largest expansion with the opening of a hotel and indoor water park. Liseberg's board of directors was expected to begin recruiting for a new CEO shortly after the late-April announcement.

**Anderson**

Jungle Island in Miami has announced the appointment of **Curtis Crider** as general manager. Crider brings more than 26 years of hospitality management experience to the 18-acre animal discovery park and will oversee the next phase of its multimillion-dollar reinvention as an eco-adventure destination. Upon completion, the **Iconic Attractions Group** property will feature a hotel and new jungle adventure attractions. Crider previously worked for **Sonesta Hotels and Resorts**, where he held various leadership positions. He sits on several executive boards, including the **Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association** and the **Coconut Grove Arts Festival and Historical Society**.

**Crider**

Jason Havel has joined Rockledge, Fla.-based ride and show systems engineering firm **Entech Innovative** as project manager. Previously, Havel concluded a 20-year career of aviation leadership and project management in the **U.S. Air Force**, where he led a cross-functional **Department of Defense** team and oversaw an \$8.7 million contract. Among his several degrees, he earned a bachelor of arts in television production from **Western Michigan University** and a master of business administration from Missouri-based **Webster University**. Entech's projects have included The Simpsons Ride for the **Universal Studios** theme parks and themed environments for museum, retail and entertainment clients.

**Havel**

Niels Jørgen Jensen has been named the new managing director of **Fårup Sommerland** theme park in North Jutland, Denmark. The position becomes effective Sept. 1. Jensen, currently senior operations director at **Lego House** in Billund, Denmark, has extensive knowledge of the park; originally a seasonal worker at Fårup Sommerland, he eventually became head of staff, park manager and general manager. Between now and September, the park's main owner, **Henrik Schnack**, will fill the role of managing director while the management team steers operations through this year's high season.

**Jensen**

Location-based interactive attractions maker **Triotech** has announced the appointment of **Han Jie** as sales director for China. With a strong background in the themed entertainment industry, including five years working in sales and marketing in design, theming and creative projects, she has joined the Canadian company's Beijing-based team and will be responsible for all sales activities in the country. In related news, as part of Triotech's expansion in the Chinese market, the company has launched a new website: triotechchina.com.

**Han Jie**

David Mandt has been promoted to executive vice president and chief engagement officer at the **International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)**. The newly created position is responsible for member engagement and global marketing, communications and education. Mandt, a 38-year industry veteran who began his career as a ticketing and parking host at **Carowinds** in Charlotte,

**Mandt****ON THE MOVE**

N.C., previously served as IAAPA's senior vice president, marketing and communications. During that time, he oversaw the marketing strategy and plans for global expositions; developed the association's year-long 100th anniversary celebration; facilitated planning for all media relations, crisis and executive communications; and provided leadership during a three-year association rebranding.

The board of directors of the Dallas-based **State Fair of Texas** has appointed **Gina Armour Norris** as the fair's new chair. Norris will succeed **Richard Knight, Jr.**, following the completion of his four-year term and is the first woman in a long line of community leaders who have provided direction for the nonprofit organization since it was chartered in 1886. Norris, whose banking career spans 30 years, joined the fair in 2004 through the Youth Livestock Auction Committee — raising funds for the Youth Livestock Auction and Scholarship Program and later serving as co-chair. In 2013, she co-founded the Big Tex Champion Club fundraiser, which has raised more than \$1 million for the scholarship program. Norris has served on the fair's board for 11 years, most recently as chair of the Finance and Audit Committee.

**Norris**

A series of management shakeups at **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.**, continued in late April with reports that two-decade company veteran **Mark A. Pauls** was out as president of **SeaWorld Orlando** and **Aquatica Orlando**. Pauls, who was promoted to the position last September after the departure of **Jim Dean**, has been replaced by **Kyle Miller**, **Discovery Cove** park president; Miller will preside over all three of SeaWorld's Orlando parks on an interim basis. Former COO and interim CEO **John Reilly**, a 34-year SeaWorld veteran, departed at the end of March after former **Carnival Cruise Lines** COO **Gus Antorcha** was named permanent CEO of SeaWorld in February.

**Pauls**

Area15, an immersive entertainment and retail destination scheduled to open in Las Vegas in December, has tapped **Dan Pelson** as COO. Responsible for daily operations, he will oversee leasing, marketing and business development. Pelson brings 12-plus years of executive experience from companies including **Warner Music Group**, **Sony Music Entertainment** and **Sony Corp. of America**. His career began at **Sun Microsystems**; later, he founded **Word.com** and then launched **Bolt.com** and **uPlayMe** — the latter an entertainment-based social networking app acquired by a major music label, leading to his music industry career.

**Pelson**

James Reid-Anderson, chairman, president and CEO of **Six Flags Entertainment Corp.**, has informed the company of his intention to retire by the end of February 2020. As part of its normal succession-planning process, Six Flags announced that it has retained an outside search firm to locate a successor. Led by the company's board of directors, the process will evaluate both internal and external candidates for the CEO position. The board also will undergo a process to evaluate candidates for chairman of the board following Reid-Anderson's retirement.

**Reid-Anderson**

Custom molder and ride padding manufacturer **Ralph S. Alberts Co., Inc.**, of Montoursville, Pa., has added **Thomas Schmidt** to its leadership team. As director of sales and marketing, he is responsible for expanding the company's long-standing industry relationships as it enhances its operation to include additional products and services. With more than 25 years of experience in sales and media, Schmidt joins the company from **Forever Media, Inc.**, where he served as a regional director of sales. He spent more than a decade as a sales account executive with a significant focus on customer relationship management.

**Schmidt**

Women INFLUENCE

A view from the top...

Charlene and Guy Leavitt formally began Ray Cammack Shows (RCS) in 1988, but the two have been in the outdoor amusement business industry for most of their lives. Headquartered in Laveen, Ariz., the carnival is one of the top shows in the U.S.

Accomplishments and affiliations...

- 10-year board member of the Child Development Center at Fairplex, in Pomona, Ca.
- Board member of Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA)
- Chairman of the Circle of Excellence Committee of OABA
- Member of Showmen's League of America, IAAPA, International Association of Fairs and Expos, Arizona Showmen's Association
- Recipient of the Los Angeles County Fair Hall of Fame, the Pima County Fair Hall of Fame, AREA Safety Award, Buster Brown Safety Award, the CDC Creating Leaders recognition and Western Fairs Assoc. Barham Award

Leavitt wouldn't change a thing

LAVEEN, Ariz. — Charlene Cammack Leavitt has been a part of the outdoor amusement business industry for as long as she can remember.

She was two years old in 1956 when her dad, Ray Cammack, went from owning the local Chevrolet dealership with his father in the small farming community of Lennox, S.D., to becoming a ride superintendent for his next door neighbor, Bernard Thomas, Art. B. Thomas Shows.

Leavitt hasn't missed a season on the road since. And she has loved it all and says now she wouldn't change one thing. She loved traveling and being with her family. From the beginning she traveled alongside her dad, her mother, Veryl, and her two older sisters, Linda Cammack Kling and Delia Cammack Ritter.

But the road wasn't always easy. Early living quarters were not like they are today with the larger motor homes and bunk houses. Even in the late 1970s, she and her husband, Guy Leavitt, lived in a one-axle, 16-foot long trailer while on the road. When they started their own family, there were challenges.

"It was a struggle sometimes," she said. "I'm not going to lie."

She and her husband had 6 children and now have 26 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Leavitt met her husband in 1975 after being hired by her father, who had started RCS in 1961. By 1975, RCS had grown substantially. Her father had purchased Smith Wonder Shows and Frazier's World Fair Shows. He realized he needed someone that he could eventually place in a leadership role.

Also in 1975, Guy Leavitt was looking for a job. His parents, Harley and Rita Leavitt, had just sold their show, H.A. Leavitt Attractions. He had three interviews at the 1974 International Association of Fairs and Expos in Las Ve-

gas, Nev. He had one and canceled the other two.

Meanwhile, Leavitt was attending a med tech school.

"In 1975, my father called me and asked if I could take a leave of absence and help him out on a unit in Texas, which Guy was managing," she said. "I did."

After that three-week absence, she finished the med tech program, then went back on the road.

"My relationship with Guy began," she said. "I had never met anyone that saw the world like I did before."

They married two years later, both agreeing that they wanted to stay in the industry but, in what aspect, they hadn't decided.

But like so often happens, destiny just takes over. In 1983, her father died suddenly of a heart attack. Two years later, her husband's father died suddenly in a car accident. The latter had since purchased Great Western Shows after only two years of retirement.

The young couple had had two shows. They knew where they were going. After several years of helping out their moms, running the two shows separately, they purchased both shows and merged them into RCS.

The first challenge the two faced was how they were going to sell their own show. Leavitt said they knew they could never be the sales person her father was.

"We knew we had to have a product," she said.

They began focusing on midway beautification, utilizing park benches, landscaping, stroller-friendly walkways, shading and theming. They began color-coordinating staff uniforms and flags with each event.

In building their ride arsenal, they concentrated on unique rides.

Leavitt was instrumental in creat-

Charlene Cammack Leavitt

Owner
Ray Cammack Shows
Laveene, Ariz.



ing the show's safety program and still runs it today along with her son-in-law, Chris Lopez. Lopez is married to Jody Leavitt Lopez. Both are active on the show. They also have a human resource department in charge of all the hiring.

Ray Cammack Shows has grown into one of the top carnivals in the U.S. They fielded 83 rides at the 2019 Houston (Texas) Livestock Show and Rodeo, currently their largest date.

They have strived to not only provide an outstanding environment for their patrons, but for their employees as well. They have a commissary, an entertainment area where they provide catered meals on the weekends, hold birthday parties and schedule regular church services.

Four years ago, Leavitt's daughter, Joy Leavitt Pickett, whose husband, Ben, also is a part of RCS, created a school for children traveling on the midway called the Cammack Christian Academy.

It has certainly been a journey, and Leavitt makes it very clear that she and her husband are still growing their business.

The carnival has enjoyed success, but the most important part of that for Leavitt has been her family and the relationships they all have formed and still cherish.

Her family is close knit. Both of her sisters work on the show as does Guy's brother, Mark Leavitt. Aside from Jody and Joy, her daughter Kim Leavitt Palmieri and her husband, Dominic, work on the show.

Her other three children are close by. They are: Christopher Leavitt (Kimberly) Melissa Leavitt Blomsness (Rob) and Tess Leavitt Luster (Tanner).

"We lose count when we try to count the number of folks that work with us that are related," she said. "If they aren't related by blood, they may as well be because we have all been together so long. They are family."

There is one other thing Leavitt loves. "I love to walk the midway with Guy, hand in hand, and watch everyone having fun," she said. "It has made it all worthwhile. It just doesn't get any better than that."

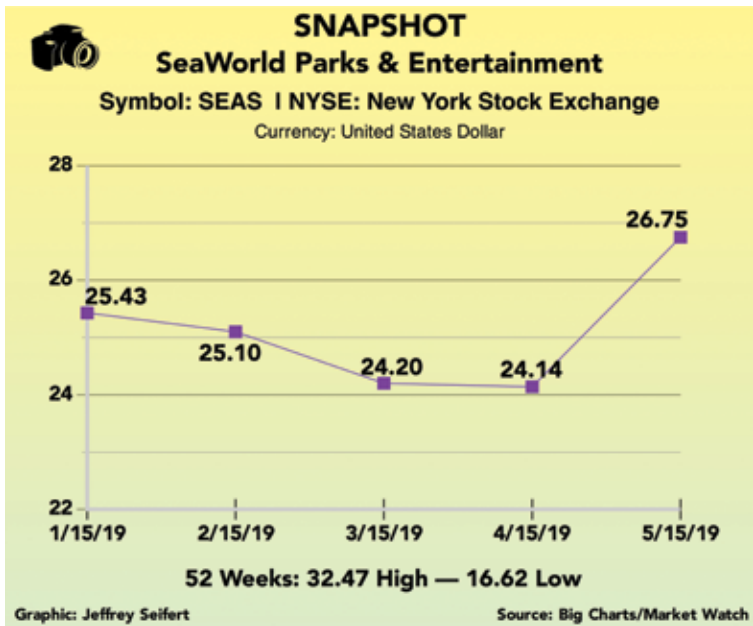
—Pam Sherborne

MARKET WATCH

COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 05/16/19	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	40.40	40.75	26.88
Merlin Entertainments Group / Legoland	MERL	LSE	374.10	415.70	304.50
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	53.32	67.35	45.73
Comcast Corp./NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	43.19	43.96	30.67
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	135.50	142.37	98.8
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.19	0.44	0.17
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	78.68	80.20	57.85
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	4100.00	4345.00	2855.00
Haichang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.48	2.29	1.18
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	7.45	8.30	5.45
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	26,53	32.88	21.61
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	13.84	15.18	9.84
Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.	RCL	NYSE	125.72	133.60	89.48
Sansei Technologies, Inc.	JP:6357	TYO	1131.00	2160.00	1089.00
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	26.96	32.47	16.62
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	53.85	73.38	46.68
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	686.00	710.00	590.00
Village Roadshow	AU:VRL	ASX	3.84	3.9	1.73

STOCK PRICES ABOVE ARE GENERALLY QUOTED IN THE FOREIGN CURRENCY IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LOCATED

Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock Exchange; **TSEC**, Taiwan Stock Exchange, Corp.; **TYO/TSE**, Tokyo Stock Exchange
—SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal



DIESEL PRICES		
Region (U.S.)	As of 05/13/19	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$3.176	-\$0.060
Midwest	\$3.046	-\$0.129
Gulf Coast	\$2.905	-\$0.107
Mountain	\$3.181	-\$0.135
West Coast	\$3.355	-\$0.127
California	\$4.136	\$0.207

CURRENCY	
On 05/17/19 \$1 USD =	
0.8932	EURO
0.7800	GBP (British Pound)
109.66	JPY (Japanese Yen)
1.0090	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.4473	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3437	CAD (Canadian Dollar)

BUSINESS WATCH

Cedar Fair reports a strong start for 2019

SANDUSKY, Ohio — **Cedar Fair Entertainment Co.** (NYSE: FUN) announced results for the first quarter ended March 31, and due to the later timing of the Easter and spring break holidays, provided an update on revenue trends based on preliminary results for the first four months ended April 28. Net revenues are up two percent, or approximately \$2 million, when compared with the same prior-year period ended April 29. For the first quarter ended March 31, Cedar Fair's net revenues increased \$12 million to \$67 million, compared with \$55 million last year. The increase in revenues reflects increases in attendance, in-park per capita spending and out-of-park revenues, all of which were up during the quarter compared to 2018 due to an additional nine operating days. Cedar Fair's board also declared a cash distribution of \$0.925 per limited partner unit payable June 17.

Attendance rises in SeaWorld's 1st quarter

ORLANDO — In the first quarter of this year, **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.** (NYSE: SEAS), reported that attendance increased by 0.1 million to 3.3 million guests — a rise of 3.6 percent over the same quarter in 2018. Total revenue increased by \$3.4 million, or 1.6 percent, to \$220.6 million. The company's net loss was \$37 million, compared to a net loss of \$62.8 million in the first quarter of 2018, while adjusted EBITDA was \$16.4 million, an improvement of \$14.1 million, over the first quarter of 2018.

Gate down, guest spending up at Six Flags

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — **Six Flags Entertainment Corp.** (NYSE: SIX), announced that revenue for the first quarter of 2019 was \$128 million and attendance was 2.2 million guests. Revenue declined \$1 million, or one percent, from the first quarter of 2018, driven by a 189,000, or eight percent, decrease in the number of guests visiting Six Flags parks. That was almost entirely offset by a five percent increase in total guest spending per capita and an increase in revenue from international agreements. The company said attendance was adversely impacted due to the Easter holiday falling on April 21 — shifting a portion of the operating calendar and about 200,000 guest visits to the second quarter. In the first quarter of 2019, the company invested \$47 million in new capital projects.

In brief...

•**Cedar Fair Entertainment Co.** has partnered with **Feld Entertainment** to present **Monster Jam Thunder Alley**, a new interactive experience at select Cedar Fair parks. The event features interactive zones where guests can experience Monster Jam's most popular trucks. It kicked off at **Cedar Point** in Sandusky, Ohio, in mid-May and runs through June 30. It is scheduled for July 20-Sept. 2 at **Kings Dominion** in Doswell, Va., and Sept. 14-Nov. 3 at **Dorney Park** in Allentown, Pa.

•**Firestone Financial, LLC**, of Needham, Mass., announced its 2018 Platinum Partners Awards at **Amusement Expo International** in Las Vegas in March. Recipients were chosen for their industry leadership as well as their support of Firestone Financial's initiatives. They were **Apple Industries, Inc.**; **Arachnid, Inc.**; **Creative Works, Inc.**; **Embed USA, LLC**; **Intercard**; **Triotech**; **TouchTunes Music Corp.**; and **Vendors Exchange Intl., Inc.**

•The Texas travel and tourism industry generated an estimated \$80.2 billion in direct spending in 2018, resulting in a \$164 billion economic impact in the Lone Star State. An estimated 72.5 million out-of-state visitors contributed to the figures, per the state governor's office.

*Amusement industry NEWS ...
... at your fingertips!
Download our app today!*

International Rides Management celebrates 30 years in business

Ride brokerage and consultancy known for customer service

WILDWOOD, N.J. — Bringing fun and business savvy to parks in America and beyond, **International Ride Management (IRM)** is marking its third decade in the industry this year.

The company was founded in 1989 by amusement veterans **James Palmer** and **B. Peter Zwickau**. Palmer's entry into the business began with positions at **Arrow Dynamics**, **Bradley and Kaye**, and **D.H. Morgan**. Zwickau, whose roles have included president of **Hansa-Park** in Germany and **Arrow/Huss**, is credited with career ride sales exceeding \$100 million.



IRM grew rapidly from the outset. It provided ride packages to **Elitch Gardens**, **Circus Circus Adventuredome**, **Visionland** (now **Alabama Adventure**), **Jazzland** (later **Six Flags New Orleans**), **Warner Bros. Movie World** in Spain and **Ocean Park** in Hong Kong. IRM was selected to rebuild **Kuwait Entertainment City** amusement park after the Iraqi government dismantled and shipped the mechanical rides to Iraq during the first Gulf War. The company also conducted liquidations of **Bob-Lo Island**, **Opryland** and **Maple Leaf Village**, among others.

In 2003, **Steven Elliott** purchased the company, making it a division of his engineering and testing company, **Ride Actions Ltd.** Elliott previously worked in **Walt Disney Imagineering's** research and development division, reviewing and evaluating hundreds of potential future ride systems.

Three years later, **Tony Rossi**, owner of **Leisure Tech Services**, purchased IRM — merging the company's vast network of contacts with Rossi's **NAARSO** expertise (including his experience as an expert witness and his large number of certified inspection areas).

Rossi got his start in the industry at **Casino Pier** in Seaside Heights, N.J., where he helped install, maintain and operate a **Schwarzkopf Jet Star**



Tony Rossi, current owner of IRM, got his industry start at **Casino Pier** in New Jersey, where he helped install, maintain and operate a **Schwarzkopf Jet Star** (above right). Later, he supervised the relocation of **Knott's Berry Farm's Corkscrew** coaster (above left) to **Silverwood Theme Park** in Idaho. In recent years, IRM's projects have included brokering the sale of a **Schwarzkopf Enterprise** from **Six Flags** to **Fun Spot America Orlando**; shown in front of the ride (right) are IRM's **Samuel Shurgott** and the park's **John Arie, Sr.** COURTESY SILVERWOOD; IRM



roller coaster. He then moved on to a nine-year tenure as a ride regulator for the State of New Jersey before taking over maintenance and construction at **Silverwood Theme Park** in Athol, Idaho.

IRM's long-standing tradition of coaster preservation can be traced back to Rossi's employment at Silverwood, where he supervised the relocation of **Knott's Berry Farm's** historic **Corkscrew** roller coaster to the park. He also led the in-house construction of Silverwood's **Thunder Canyon** white water raft ride.

After several more seasons with Silverwood, Rossi returned to New Jersey to work for **Morey's Piers** in Wildwood before launching **Leisure Tech Services**.

Growing for the future

Under Rossi's ownership, the year 2007 was a pivotal one for IRM. The company brokered the sale of the last remaining rides from the shuttered **MGM Grand Adventures** theme park in Las Vegas to a private buyer in California. IRM also was tasked with finding new owners for two **Vekoma** Giant Inverted Boomerang steel coasters from the **Six Flags** chain, with one going to Silverwood and the other to **Mirabilandia** in Brazil.

Samuel Shurgott, whom Rossi had known since before they worked together at **Morey's Piers**, joined IRM that fall. Shurgott began selling rides independently in 1998, when the **Morey** family was ready to part with a kiddie Ferris wheel. "Tony actually suggested that I call **Knoebels Amusement Resort** back then," he recalled. "Dick Knoebel purchased the ride, and I was hooked on providing family parks with equipment."

Prior to joining **Morey's**

Piers, while in college, Shurgott had experience working for **Cedar Point** in Ohio and **Conneaut Lake Park** and **Dutch Wonderland** in Pennsylvania. Like Rossi, he networked and forged many friendships over the years.

The largest ride Shurgott sold was the dormant **Log Flume** at **Hunt's Pier**, then under the **Morey's** ownership, to **Arnold's Park** in Iowa. "Originally, the ride was moving to a planned Western theme park in Branson, Missouri," he said. "But the project stalled and I had to source another home quickly."

Shurgott approached **Lakemont Park** in Altoona, Pa., and **Conneaut Lake** about taking the flume ride, but budget constraints proved prohibitive. **Cary Parker**, then general manager of **Arnold's Park**, had seen Sam's ride sale ad in *Amusement Today*, and after some conversations and a field visit, he felt the park could pull it off if the **Morey** family waived the sales fee.

In what Shurgott described as "the fastest ownership decision" he has ever seen, the **Moreys** generously agreed to donate the flume — but it had to be removed well before the summer season so they could begin to redevelop **Hunt's Pier** for future use. The ride's manufacturer, **Arrow Dynamics**, was onsite to ensure the flume was properly packed and tagged for transport, and then — in what would be the company's final flume project — handled its reconstruction at **Arnold's**. Rechristened **Boiji Falls**, it opened in late summer of 2000 and still thrills families today.

Also having joined IRM from **Morey's Piers** is former maintenance technician turned mechanical engineer **Steven Valenti**. Valenti came onboard

in 2008 as a consultant for engineering and technical services; his earlier stint as a technician for **Premier Rides** helped forge a partnership between the latter company and IRM that remains strong. Additionally, he has fulfilled duties for **Walt Disney Imagineering** and **Oceaneering**, among others.

Mike Funyak, who previously worked with **Morey's Piers**, **Kennywood** and **Fun Fore All Family Fun Park** and currently works with **Del Grosso's Amusement Park**, was hired last year to assume social media and marketing duties. Funyak has been tasked with rebuilding IRM's website and to link it with the pages of the company's U.S. and European partners, as well as use it to showcase 30 years of successful IRM projects. The company's Facebook page now has nearly 2,000 followers and enjoys 4,000-10,000 views per week.

No ride left behind

Recently, IRM has focused on consulting and finding homes for vintage rides for smaller family-owned parks. Getting the seller and the buyer on the same wavelength is the key to success: once the company determines exactly what the buyer wants, the road to a transaction can be paved.

For example, IRM searched for more than two years for a park-mount **Enterprise** ride for **John Arie, Sr.**, and the second-phase expansion of his family's **Fun Spot America** park in Orlando. After many phone calls, IRM was able to secure a **Schwarzkopf** model from **Six Flags**. **Steve Valenti**, who was being transferred between the **Disney** parks in **Anaheim** and **Orlando** at the time, was able to supervise the potentially difficult relocation of the 30-plus-

year-old ride. **Fun Spot** retained the services of **Ken Benner, Sr.**, a seasoned showman, to assist with the project, while IRM partner **Premier Rides**, which had upgraded this particular **Enterprise** in 2002 (including replacing the cars), was ready to pitch in.

The shipping and installation "went beautifully," according to Shurgott. Arie had the ride repainted and Benner wrapped it in LED lighting. **John Arie, Jr.**, recently purchased a 2016 **Bob's Space Racers** group game from **Fun Fore All** in Pittsburgh through IRM, and it was shipped and operating by the 2019 New Year's holiday at the family's **Fun Spot America** location in **Kissimmee, Fla.**

Other high-profile sales have kept IRM busy.

Andretti Karting tasked IRM with completing the entertainment center chain's hard-ride offerings in Florida. IRM helped New York-based **Empire Attractions** secure five rides for two of its parks: **Santa's Workshop** in **North Pole, N.Y.**, and **Sylvan Beach Amusement Park** in **Sylvan Beach, N.Y.** The company has also created a master plan for **Sylvan Beach** that gives the park several years' worth of options for growth.

IRM has even helped extend the life of two classic steel coasters at **Frontier City** in **Oklahoma City**. When **Ralph Trine**, the last owner of now-closed **Fun Spot Amusement Park & Zoo** in **Angola, Indiana**, asked IRM to seek a home for **Arrow's** original shuttle loop coaster, relocating

► See IRM, page 47

► **IRM****Continued from page 46**

the entire ride proved to be too challenging for most prospective buyers. But Frontier City offered to take the train, the station canopy and all the moving parts, plus staircase sections. With Trine giving excellent terms and assistance, the park received a train and components with about 12 years less service time than Diamond Back, the coaster for which they were destined.

In another Frontier City deal similarly brokered by IRM, the park purchased the train elements, some track pieces, brake mounts and other parts from **Six Flags Astroworld's** Greezed Lightnin' for its

Schwarzkopf Looping Star steel coaster, Silver Bullet.

The company has just completed the liquidation of most of the mechanical rides at Lakemont Park, with many vintage units finding their way to new homes fully intact. **Midway Park** in New York received the Twister and **Eli Wheel**, while **Alabama Adventure** received the Scrambler.

The new, rapidly growing **Funtime Fun Park** in Alliance, Ohio, purchased a trio of Lakemont's kiddie rides and also obtained several of its **Skee-Ball**-built midway games, while another Lakemont midway game went to **Adventureland Resort** in Iowa. Lakemont's German Swings, Round-Up, Sky Diver, Toboggan coaster and

carousel all found homes with a showman in the Midwest, and they will reappear in the near future following refurbishment.

Lakemont Park owner **Ralph Abarano** gave very favorable terms on purchasing, and his maintenance team assisted many of the buyers in packing and loading the equipment to ensure a smooth purchase. IRM set a goal to find every ride a home where a new attraction would make difference and be a welcome addition, and by the end of the sale only one ride was purchased for parts.

IRM has formed industry partnerships in recent years in order to enhance its master planning for parks and expand its service reach, and Premier Rides

has become its foremost collaborator.

"Premier's **Jim and Sara Seay** have provided outstanding support in many areas, including engineering and design," Shurgott said. "With Premier able to design, build and repair virtually any ride, they are always close by to lend support."

Premier Rides has also extended a dollar-for-dollar match to IRM's clients. For every dollar a buyer spends on purchasing a ride or game, Premier will match that sales figure up to USD \$50,000 toward a new Premier attraction. The program has been a success, and IRM is looking to undertake similar promotions with other partner companies.

IRM also works with **Sally**

Corp., **Swanee River Railroad Co.**, **Owen Trailers**, **Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters**, **Structural Technologies**, **Park Insights** and **Great Events** of Colorado. IRM recently added England-based **Pan-Am Shooting Galleries** to its partnership list and is assisting **Equipment Solutions Intl.** with its introduction of new Italian kiddie rides from **Ital-Resina**.

"IRM's philosophy has evolved with the industry," Shurgott said. "It strives to help clients achieve their goals with assistance in ride acquisition, relocation, installation, inspections, appraisals and maintenance. We look forward to another successful 30 years of supporting family-owned and -operated parks."

• irmpri.com



IRM had the opportunity to find new homes for two of Six Flags Inc.'s Vekoma Giant Boomerangs (left). Recently, IRM completed the liquidation of most of the mechanical attractions at Lakemont Park in Altoona, Pa. This Sky Diver ride (middle) was acquired by a Midwest-based showman. The largest ride IRM's Samuel Shurgott sold as an independent reseller was the Hunt's Pier Log Flume, which now resides at Arnold's Park. COURTESY IRM; SILVERWOOD; AT/TIM BALDWIN

Proud Partners with

Premier Rides • Sally Dark Rides • PTC • Owen Trailers • STI

Swanee River Railroad Co. • Great Events of Colorado • Pan Am Amusements

Park Insights • Ital Resina • Equipment Solutions International

Thank you to all of our recent buyers...

Arnold's Park • Funtimes Fun Park • Lakemont Park • Midway Park • Fun Spot

Joyland • Alabama Adventure • Adventureland • Empire Attractions

Reflections ON FUN...

A mortifying situation



AT: Lottie Minick

In the 1990s, my husband, **Bob**, was partnered in a redemption arcade at **Billy Bob's Texas**, the famous Fort Worth honky tonk.

One busy Saturday night, a loud cowboy parked at our roll-a-ball derby, where I was stationed while Bob and our son, **Randall**, visited the venue's owner, **Billy Minick**. After he put down a \$20 bill, I told him, "There's a new sheriff in town. No change — you can play 40 times."

Mr. Cowboy didn't win the game once. Seeing he

was tapped out, I suggested: "You can play for free, but you have to take off an article of clothing each time you lose."

The guy was down to his hat, boots and heart-patterned purple silk underwear when appeared my husband, our son... and Mr. Cowboy's wife. I snapped a photo of our half-naked patron while Randall presented the couple our largest teddy bear prize. "Please destroy that picture," the wife urged. "My husband is a mortician and runs his family's funeral home."

Two weeks later, a friend of ours passed unexpectedly. As Bob and I entered the funeral home, I felt eyes

fall upon me. It was Mr. Cowboy in a dark suit, clearly uncomfortable.

My husband whispered, "Try to behave." So I shook Mr. Cowboy's hand politely. "Hope to see more of you at Billy Bob's," I said.

Lottie Minick is a 45-year amusement industry veteran and co-owner of Dallas-based Minick Associates, a design firm founded by her late husband, Bob. Her monthly column features behind-the-scenes anecdotes of her own and from those who have worked in the business. Got a humorous or unusual industry story? Email lottie@minickassociates.com.

Masters in the art of insuring amusement risks.

Since 1983, we've crafted risk management solutions solely for the Amusement, Entertainment and Leisure industries.

That's expertise we bring to your business.

We find the perfect mix of innovative and affordable insurance programs for each and every individual client, then add 24/7 claims service to give you peace of mind.



Call and see how we can help:

800.235.8774

www.alliedspecialty.com

Insurance policies are administered by Allied Specialty Insurance, Inc. (in California dba Allied Specialty Insurance Agency License No. 0748144). Allied Specialty Insurance is a trademark of AXA SA or its affiliates. AXA XL is a division of AXA Group providing products and services through four business groups: AXA XL Insurance, AXA XL Reinsurance, AXA XL Art & Lifestyle and AXA XL Risk Consulting. Coverages are underwritten by the following AXA XL insurance companies: Greenwich Insurance Company, Indian Harbor Insurance Company, XL Insurance America, Inc., XL Specialty Insurance Company and T.H.E. Insurance Company. Not all of the insurers do business in all jurisdictions nor is coverage available in all jurisdictions.

Quassy launches new website, expands arcade

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. — Quassy Amusement Park & Waterpark launched a new comprehensive website in May.

"Our new website provides an outstanding overview of the park on all user platforms," said President **Eric Anderson**. "All of our land rides and water park attractions are featured with separate photos and descriptions. We have also made the online ticket purchasing process more streamlined."

In addition, a new feature highlights a number of the park's major events with photos and online ticketing (when applicable). The updated operating calendar also facilitates planning a visit with color-keyed park ride and water park hours.

On the park grounds, the iconic arcade building includes new offerings for the 2019 season. An updated redemption center was completed in the huge building. Several new games were added to the lineup.

The park introduced a "Game On" system several years ago, which allows guests to use barcoded cards to play in the arcade. The cards also keep track of earned credits that are used to redeem prizes.



New games and a redemption area were added to Quassy's arcade. COURTESY QUASSY

Serving Montgomery Inn Barbecue is as easy as:



Heck, we even fold the wet naps for you.

WE'RE MONTGOMERY INN, AMERICA'S #1 RIBS RESTAURANT*.

We've been providing great meals, featuring our world-famous Montgomery Inn Barbecue Sauce, for theme parks and other attractions for years. We know how the aroma of smoked barbecue pulls in the customers. We know how important it is please your guests with delicious, nutritious meals. We know how our pulled pork barbecue and pulled smoked chicken barbecue sandwiches melt in your mouth and we know how incredibly easy these meals are to prepare.

Make your guests happy. Make your food servers happy. Make the easy choice of Montgomery Inn.



FOR MORE INFO, CALL EVAN ANDREWS AT 513-791-1942 OR E-MAIL HIM AT EVANANDREWS@MONTGOMERYINN.COM.

SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

► New safety seminar from Greater Ohio Showman's Association — page 56

Morgan's Wonderland announces ultra-accessible recreational camp

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — In partnership with **Valero Energy Corp.**, **Morgan's Wonderland** has planned and begun construction on **Morgan's Wonderland Camp**. The award-winning theme park opened to worldwide acclaim in 2010 for its accessibility inclusion approach. All visitors, regardless of their abilities, are able to ride and experience all attractions. In 2017, the facility's second park, **Morgan's Inspiration Island**, was added creating an ultra-accessible water park and splash playground.

This new third project to be named after founder **Gordon Hartman's** daughter, **Morgan**, is projected to be completed in the fall of 2020. Located in Northern San Antonio, it will be a few miles from the original parks.

When asked by *Amusement Today* as to how the concept developed, Hartman said, "There is a need for a fully inclusive camp. They basically don't exist when it comes to ultra-accessible. Camps today have certain requirements as to who can attend based on cognitive and physical issues. We wanted a camp under the Morgan's Wonderland philosophy which is fully inclusive. We've been exploring the idea for many years."

Hartman reported that occasional opportunities would arise far away, but he wanted campers to have the availability to enjoy Morgan's Wonderland and Morgan's Inspiration Island during the same vacation. When a wooded area became available not far from



Morgan's Wonderland Camp will open in the fall of 2020.
COURTESY MORGAN'S WONDERLAND

the parks, it was the right time to give birth to the project.

The size of Morgan's Wonderland Camp will be more than 100 acres. Its wooded setting will feature 20 cabins, 10 of which sleep up to 16 campers and 10 larger cabins which can sleep 36 campers in its two divided halves separated by a common area.

"We bring a lot of people together. We talk to doctors, therapists, people who build other camps and folks involved with our Para Olympic activities. We bring them all together to discuss what needed to be done all the way from the design of the camp to all the different elements within the camp setting," said Hartman. "We designed the cabins to where even those without special needs at all would enjoy the camp. That was all taken into account. Everything we do is designed to where those without needs will still want to participate, and that is

where we bring about the element of inclusiveness."

Other components to Morgan's Wonderland Camp include a 20,000-square-foot welcome center and dining hall that can seat 600 guests, incorporates a stage and features two large covered porches. Swimming pools, splash pad and a lazy river add to the wet summer fun. A large treehouse will boast panoramic Hill Country views. Other activities will include horseback riding, archery, bicycle trails, arts-and-crafts, a nature farm and an ultra-accessible zipline attraction with multiple platforms. A challenge course with climbing walls for campers of all abilities will be on offer. An outdoor fire pit will become a gathering spot for a true summer camp feel. There will also be an enclosed sports pavilion for all-season team building.

"Just as we did with Morgan's Wonderland theme park and Morgan's Inspiration



Island splash park, we're going to create an ultra-accessible, barrier-free environment where campers can enjoy outdoor fun to the fullest," said Hartman. Since 2005 he has been focused on aiding the special-needs community. "If you must rely on a wheelchair for mobility, just imagine the thrill of being able to zipline through the rugged and scenic Hill Country just north of town."

"I loved it the second they mentioned it to me," said **Mike Barker**, executive director and COO, **Corporate Challenge DBA Adventure Mas**. "I've been involved in this industry since the 1970s. Within the last year, I had a man with cerebral palsy tell me after getting off a ropes course that he hadn't even been on a swing in his life. It brought tears to my eyes. Nothing has ever made me feel that good. This will not only be the only wheelchair accessible zipline course in the world but also the only accessible challenge course in the world that is 20 feet up in the air."

When approaching the design of an ultra-access zipline, Hartman was pleased with statements from groups with which he became



involved. "In the 30 years I've been involved in this business, no one has ever asked me to do what you are asking me to do" was a remark that resonated with him, as well as how it empowered those partners to become advocates for inclusivity.

"We are kind of outside the box and are opening up opportunities for more people — 100 percent of the population, not just certain people," said Hartman.

The swimming pools designed will offer various conditions such as zero entry or warmer temperatures for specific needs.

On the campsite, a 5,500-square-foot health center will handle things from first aid to special needs and medical concerns.

► See CAMP, page 51

DEDICATED TO SAFETY 24/7/365



SPARE PARTS | REPLACEMENT VEHICLES | RIDE RELOCATION
RIDE REHABILITATION | CHAIN & SPROCKET REHABILITATION
CHAIN & SPROCKET REPLACEMENT | LEGACY RIDE UPGRADES
SAFETY MODIFICATION SERVICES | QUEUE GATE SYSTEMS
MAGNETIC BRAKE UPGRADES | CONTACT US FOR A QUOTE

Walt Disney World launches new solar facility



ORLANDO, Fla. — Built in collaboration with the Reedy Creek Improvement District and solar developer Origis Energy USA, Walt Disney World took its new 270-acre, 50-megawatt solar facility online in April. The facility is expected to generate enough renewable clean energy to operate two of Disney's four theme parks in Central Florida annually. COURTESY WALT DISNEY WORLD

Adventure Golf Services named Bergo distributor, installer

TRAVERSE CITY, Michigan — **Adventure Golf Services** (AGS) has been named to distribute and install the **Bergo** marine flooring system for decks, balconies and other exterior flooring needs for cruise and other ships in service. This includes river boats, mega-yachts, ferries, and other utility ships. Adventure Golf will also sell and install the Bergo Sport Floor system on ships.

"We are extremely satisfied to select Adventure Golf Services to represent our company's effort to strengthen our marine business area," says **Ulf Hellmuth**, export manager for Bergo Flooring AB. "Bergo has almost 50 years of experience creating a decking product that has minimal fade, can withstand the hot and cold climate cycles, has excellent drainage, is slip resistant, and has sound absorbing characteristics, all essential

in the marine industry."

"Our Excellence Extreme tile is the first [International Maritime Organization] approved floor tile for ship use. Adventure Golf will use our products in entertainment areas, pools, suite balconies, sports decks and other exterior decks."

"This alliance with Bergo, a flooring industry leader, demonstrates Adventure Golf's resolve to continue its growth in marine products and services," says AGS President **Scott Lundmark**.

"Adventure Golf routinely works with other flooring specialists as we install Adventure Golf products and, in many instances, an entire deck area could easily use a Bergo Marine floor," says **Mike Arnold**, AGS vice president, cruise ship division.

•adventureandfun.com



Morgan's Wonderland Camp will boast an all-access zipline course. COURTESY MORGAN'S WONDERLAND

►CAMP

Continued from page 50

Partner Valero has committed \$15 million over six years for the \$28 million project. Valero is a Fortune 500 company based in San Antonio. CEO **Joe Gorder** said, "Morgan's Wonderland Camp brings to our city another unique and world-class attraction that is not just for some but for everyone."

When it comes to marketing the new camp, the obstacle of making clear that the facility is intended for everyone (not just special needs) is front and center.

"We really work hard to emphasize to people that

everything is fully inclusive," said Hartman. "We could have a group of boy scouts, a church group and a group of special needs individuals who want to have the camping experience. All of them can join together and play. With the uniqueness of what we do, some people think it is only for special needs and they are missing the big picture of what we do. We want to be accessible, but we want people to come in and participate for what it offers. You might meet another family or make a new friend. We're going to work hard at making sure people know it is a camp for everyone."

•morganswonderland.com/camp



QUALITY
SAFETY
VALUE
ASSURANCE
since 1975



Load Wheels
Guide Wheels
Upstop Wheels
CNC Hub Manufacturing
Flume Wheels
Nylon Wheels & Parts
Solid Urethane Parts

maclan.com • 800.788.3951 • info@maclan.com • Lakeland, FL

SAFETY MARKET PLACE

The Hoffman Consulting Group, LLC

Serving the Amusement Industry



- SAFETY & SECURITY
- OPERATIONS
- RISK & CRISIS MANAGEMENT
- INDUSTRY DEFENSE

685 S. Streater Rd.
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452
(419) 607-0431
www.thehoffmancg.com



CHAIRKIT

PRERIDE TO PERFORMANCE

LAUNCH, LOADING AND RAFT
RETURN CONVEYORS FOR
WATERSLIDES

The only kit your chair needs.

www.chairkit.com

mobaru | park

Why are you still using
paper checklists?

Discover digital at: mobaropark.com

CONTROL SYSTEMS & CONSULTING FOR THE AMUSEMENT INDUSTRY

- *NEW INSTALLATIONS
- *RETROFITS
- *PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER CONSULTING



IRVINE
ONDREY
ENGINEERING

WE CONTROL THE THRILLS!

CALL 734.353.0679
WWW.IRVINEONDREY.COM *BRIAN@IRVINEONDREY.COM

AUDIO INNOVATORS INC.



YOUR ONE SOURCE FOR ALL DIGITAL MESSAGE
REPEATERS & COMMUNICATING EQUIPMENT NEEDS.

WATER PARK SAFETY - GO-KART PIT SAFETY - KIDDY RIDES
FRONT GATE - COASTERS - GROUP GAMES
SAFETY MESSAGES SYSTEMS OF ALL KINDS.
ALL ARE WITCH TURN-KEY.

WE SERVE AMUSEMENT PARKS OF ALL KINDS.
AIRPORTS, WATER PARKS, TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND VIDEO DEMOS
WWW.AUDIOINNOVATORS.COM

OFFICE 800.222.9929 - FAX 813.200.4600 - SALES@AUDIOINNOVATORS.COM



Avery L. Wheelock
813-505-3938

Avery@worldwidesafetygroup.com
www.worldwidesafetygroup.com

SPECIALIZING IN

- Third Party Safety Inspections
- State Ride Certifications
- Operator Training
- Documentation Reviews
- On-site Operational Audits
- Risk & Loss Control Surveys

PROUDLY WORKING WITH THE FOLLOWING
AMERICAN-MADE COMPANIES:



- Premier Rides
- Sally Dark Rides
- Swansee River Railroad Co.
- Owen Trailers
- Philadelphia Toboggan Coasters, Inc.

Facebook.com/IRMRides

ASTM INTERNATIONAL Committee F24 Amusement Rides and Devices

Celebrates 40 Years
1978-2018

JOIN TODAY!
www.astm.org/COMMIT/F24



Mary Jane Brewer named executive director of AIMS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Board of Directors of AIMS International announced the appointment of **Mary Jane (MJ) Brewer** as its next executive director. Brewer succeeds **Karen Oertley**, who announced her retirement last November.

Brewer brings more than 20 years of industry experience to AIMS International. She assumes overall responsibility for day-to-day management and operation of the association effective June 1, 2019. Based in Jacksonville, Fla., she will report to the board of directors.

"Karen and her team have put AIMS International in a healthy position, growing programs and services to an all-time level, and we are grateful for her work," said **Franeen Gonzales**, president of AIMS International's board of directors. "MJ brings a wealth of industry knowledge in safety education, inspection, and aquatics and comes in at the perfect time to continue that momentum."

"I am more than honored and excited beyond words about the opportunity to serve the amusement industry in this way," commented Brewer. "I look forward to working with our board to build on the platform that Karen and the AIMS staff have worked so hard to create and to bring safety education and training to even more members of the amusement industry."

Most recently, Brewer worked as vice president of operations for **US Technical Training Center (USTTC)** and is an inspection specialist for **Recreation Engineering, Inc.** She has worked as a corporate safety specialist for **Publix** and as senior vice president of organizational development, training and safety for **PARC Management, LLC**. Earlier work in the amusement industry included stints at **Busch Gardens' Adventure Island**, the **World Waterpark Association**, and **Alfa Smart Parks/Palace Entertainment**. She has served on several industry related industry committees for **WWA** and **IAAPA** and is a voting member of **ASTM's F-24 Amusement Rides & Devices** committee. She is a certified pool operator and holds inspector and operations certifications from **AIMS** and **NAARSO**.

•aimsintl.org



Brewer

Keep our amusement park industry strong!
Buy products and services from these suppliers.



NEWS & NOTES

www.aimsintl.org

Amusement Industry Manufacturers
and Suppliers International, Ltd.
P.O. Box 92366 • Nashville, Tenn. 37209
Phone: (714) 425-5747 • Fax: (714) 276-9666
Mary Jane Brewer • mj.brewer@aimsintl.org
Holly Coston, (714) 697-6654, h.coston@aimsintl.org

New executive director takes the reins of AIMS International

Please allow me to introduce myself – my name is **Mary Jane (MJ) Brewer** and I'm replacing **Karen Oertley** as Executive Director of **AIMS International**. After five years in the role, Karen has decided to embrace retirement! I want to wish her the best of luck in this new phase of her life and thank her for all the hard work that she and **Holly Coston** have done to grow the AIMS platform and specifically the annual safety seminar.

I have spent practically my whole career working in the amusement industry. Starting out at 14 years old as a lifeguard and swimming instructor, I've worked for a variety of amusement industry operators and suppliers, including: **Six Flags**, **Busch Entertainment**, **Palace Entertainment**, **PARC Management** and, most recently, **Recreation Engineering, Inc.** For several years, I volunteered for AIMS as an instructor at the annual safety seminar as well as serving on the AIMS Education Advisory Board for two years. In addition, I've spent time serving on several other industry-related committees for the **World Waterpark Association** and **IAAPA**. I'm a member of **ASTM's** F-24 Amusement Rides & Devices committee.

I am excited to begin this new chapter in my

career and look forward to working with the AIMS board of directors and staff, bringing safety education to even more members of the amusement industry community.

Call for nominations

AIMS is now accepting nominations for the prestigious AIMS International Safety Award. This honor is bestowed each year on a person or organization that contributes significantly to the improvement of safety in the amusement industry through leadership, innovation, and foresight.

Safety is, of course, a major concern for amusement park guests and employees worldwide. Therefore, AIMS feels it is important to recognize and reward the efforts that go into improving safety in a number of different ways including: the design and implementation of new technology, the development of safety education programs and by exemplary leadership in influencing others. If you know an individual or a company deserving of this award, please send in your nomination today! Nomination forms and more information can be found at aimsintl.org.

The 2019 AIMS International Safety Award will

be presented September 8 at the **Golden Ticket Awards** in **Silverwood Theme Park** on Sept. 7, 2019.

2020 Safety Seminar planning is underway

The AIMS Education Committee has been hard at work planning the next AIMS Safety Seminar, which will be held Jan. 12-17, 2020, in Galveston, Texas.

Thank you to the following AIMS Safety Seminar Education Committee members and their employers:

Monty Jasper, Cedar Fair

Kevin Garrison, REI

Dan Lebo, Pleasure Pier

Maggie Thomas, Six Flags Splashtown

Catie Christner, Great Wolf Lodge

Liz Nemeth, Six Flags Great America

Adam Hickey, Sandspit Entertainment

Craig Sundberg, Elitch Gardens

Keith Fontenot, Schlitterbahn Galveston Is.

Randy Vakiener, SeaWorld Orlando

Randy Wilke, Six Flags

Holly Coston, AIMS

Franceen Gonzales, AIMS

MJ Brewer, AIMS (Chair)

Space for this AIMS page is provided courtesy of *Amusement Today* as a corporate partner of AIMS Intl. Content is provided by AT & AIMS.



SAVE THESE DATES!
AIMS SAFETY SEMINAR
& CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
JANUARY 12-17, 2020
IN GALVESTON, TEXAS

PLANNING FOR 2020 CLASSES IS UNDERWAY!

PLEASE SEND ANY SUGGESTIONS OR IDEAS FOR TOPICS TO: info@aimsintl.org

Early registration begins in July!

(714) 425-5747 • www.aimsintl.org



IPConfigure video software manages security, other functions

AT: Dean Lamanna

dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

LAS VEGAS — With safety of paramount concern to amusement facility operators, video management software (VMS) can play a crucial role in monitoring property and enhancing security.

Norfolk, Va.-based software systems developer **IPConfigure, Inc.**, has stepped to the fore with **Orchid Fusion**, a video surveillance unification platform that offers ease of use while extending across unlimited locations, cameras, devices and users from a single interface.

The **Orchid Fusion** web interface, designed to work optimally with IPConfigure's **Orchid Core VMS** server, is hosted centrally within the client's location or in IPConfigure's secure cloud service. A Java-based platform, it is capable of running on Windows desktop and Windows Server; Red Hat Linux Enterprise 7; Ubuntu 14.04, 16.04 or 18.04; and CentOS 7, as well as a variety of Linux-embedded devices.

During a product demonstration at **Amusement Expo International 2019** in Las Vegas in March, **David Drew**, director of sales for the 16-year-old company, told *Amusement Today* that **Orchid Fusion** is built around simplicity and user friendliness.

"Everything is web-browser based, so there's no extra software," Drew said. "If you've got 2,000 people in your enterprise viewing your [surveillance] video, you don't want to have to download that software on every single one of those computers — and then have to re-download it whenever the [systems company] makes a change."

Orchid Fusion's administrative dashboard gives operators a global view of the current status of servers and cameras. It also provides at-a-glance health



IPConfigure representatives Gina Simmons and David Drew demonstrated the multifunction capabilities of the company's **Orchid Fusion** video management software at **Amusement Expo International 2019** in Las Vegas. AT/DEAN LAMANNA; COURTESY IPCONFIGURE

indicators for servers and cameras along with a recent thumbnail snapshot.

In addition, the system's user interface features a camera-search mechanism allowing the client to filter potentially thousands of available cameras and locations using a keyword. Once identified, camera feeds can simply be dragged into the computer screen's main view for monitoring or playback.

"A lot of software in the security market is overly complicated," said Drew, a former U.S. Army communications specialist with 15 years in the video security business, including work for many **Fortune 100** companies. "You'll go through a three-day training class and walk out still not understanding what you're working with."

He laughed as he recalled approaching one



amusement park with IPConfigure's system. "When I walked in, the director of operations said, 'You've got 45 minutes. You're going to teach me for 15 minutes. I'm going to teach my people for 15 minutes. And then they're going to operate it for 15 minutes. And if they can work with your software, I'll buy it.'"

"And that's the mindset: Keep it so simple that anybody can use it, but build in feature-rich things so that it's a functional piece of software."

Drew also noted that **Orchid Fusion's** capabilities can meet clients' analytics-related needs. "With our apps platform, we can integrate third-party software into our video security system. At that point, it becomes more than just about video security — it becomes a management system."

•ipconfigure.com

Pa. Ride Safety Advisory Board meets, focuses on seven attractions

AT: B. Derek Shaw

bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Four times each year, 10 representatives from the amusement industry and community volunteers selected at large meet at the **Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture** headquarters. They are members of the **Pennsylvania Ride Safety Advisory Board** who serve as a recommending body for potential approvals which come before them. At each quarterly meeting members discuss and either accept, conditionally accept, table or reject new ride approvals that are submitted. This input is used to help the **Bureau of Ride & Measurement Standards** determine their course of action on each ride in the approval process.

The mid-April meeting focused on seven ride approvals. They included an indoor climbing wall for **Mont Lawn Retreat Center**, Bushkill, Pa.; a Midi Discovery 360, **Soriani S.r.l.** (pendulum swing ride named **Twister**)

for **Waldameer Park and Water World**, Erie, Pa.; an **Adventure Solutions** zip line for **Gary's Putter Golf & Jiffy Pup Restaurant**, Coudersport, Pa.; a trapeze and swing, warrior trainer and zip line for **Sky Zone, LLC**, Monroeville, Pa. (**Sky Zone** is also the manufacturer.) Finally, pending final certification, **The Steel Curtain** — an **S&S Worldwide** nine-inversion roller coaster — for **Kennywood Park**, West Mifflin, Pa. was on the agenda. With an opening goal of the first week of June, 70 percent of the ride construction had been completed at the time of the meeting.

Under new business, two parks made ride update presentations which did not require any approvals. **Knoebels Amusement Resort** returned their **Darttron** Downdraft to the manufacturer for a **Battech Enterprises LLC** Downdraft. Both are identical rides — just the name of the manufacturer has changed.

Hersheypark has made track and gaming changes to



their **Sally Corp.** dark ride. Originally known as **Reese's Xtreme Cup Challenge**, it is now called **Cupfusion**. The small hills at the end of the ride have been lowered to ground level track, decreasing the ride dynamics. New scenery and projection screens have also been installed adding to the new multi-level gaming technology. No approvals were needed, however the board appreciated the update.

The bureau also made copies available of their 2018 annual accident report. Pennsylvania's reporting is more stringent than many other states as the state includes offsite first-aid and medical treatment, observation by a licensed physician or admission to a hospital in its reports. Looking at incidents by fault, 80 percent of all reported incidents were rider, 17 percent operator and 3 percent mechanical issues. 37 percent of all accidents

were trampoline-based, followed by water ones at 31 percent. (There was a substantial decrease in trampoline accidents in 2018 vs. 2017.) It should be noted that Pennsylvania has more amusement rides and attractions than most other states; therefore, state-by-state comparisons of reported incidents would not be credible. Some states require no incidents to be reported and all states have less requirements than Pennsylvania.

This annual report is the only documented study of accidents to recognize trends and causes to target issues to prevent re-occurrences elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

William B. Hall III has been on the advisory board since 1992, making him the longest serving member. Driving 106 miles each way from his home in suburban Philadelphia, Hall — a principal with **Bill Hall Entertainment and Events** — is a general public member of the board.

"Safety is the key issue we're involved or concerned

with. I try to make worthy comments or suggestions. I take my guidance from the people who are engineers and/or are involved in the amusement park or ride industry. I predicate my votes on the expertise of these other individuals," Hall said. He has a perfect record, attending more than 100 quarterly meetings during his 27 years on the advisory board. His company, providing show producers and talent agents/consultants, has been in operation 50-plus years.

This was the final meeting for **Gary Chubb**, senior director of maintenance for **Hersheypark**. He is retiring in late May.

"It's gonna take about six of us to replace him!" quipped **Pret Lytle, P.E.**, director of engineering at **Hersheypark**.

Remaining **Pennsylvania Ride Safety Advisory Board** Meetings for 2019 are scheduled for August 20 and October 16. Both will start at 10 a.m. and be hosted in room 309 at the **Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Building** in Harrisburg.

THE CHANCE GIANT WHEEL LIGHTS ARE AN AWESOME DISPLAY OF LEDs!

“The EWorks Pro Lighting System has been a very good system, and the installation process was flawless. Not only have the lights worked well, they have remained completely waterproof. It is a very, very pretty system and the lights are very bright, so much brighter than the original system we had. Our Chance Giant Wheel lights are an awesome display of LEDs.”



Rick Reithoffer
Reithoffer Shows



EWorks Pro
LED LIGHTING SYSTEMS

3939 Forsyth Road, Winter Park, FL 32792 USA
407-332-0151 | www.eworkspro.com
MADE IN THE USA

Greater Ohio Showman's Association announces new safety seminar

Conference set for
March 2-4, 2020
at Kalahari Resort in
Sandusky, Ohio

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Greater Ohio Showmen's Association is producing the inaugural Midwest Safety & Operations Conference, March 2 - 4, 2020, at the Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in Sandusky, Ohio.

The conference is comprehensive in scope with learning tracks for carnivals, amusement parks, water parks and concessionaires.

Two days of AIMS and/or NARRSO training will be offered with testing on day three. A one-day aquatics training, including water quality, will be offered for water parks and pools. And for concessionaires and game operators a variety of workshops including, but not limited to, ServSafe, Midway



Security, Electrical Safety and Proper Blocking Techniques will be offered in a non-credited environment.

The Kalahari Convention Center is large enough to allow for the set-up of rides and ride stations inside the spacious center. This will allow the majority of the training to be hands-on.

"The conference goal is to provide mobile and fixed amusement operators the opportunity to attain industry recognized ride safety inspec-

tion training," asserts David Drake, president of Greater Ohio Showmen's Association, "thereby increasing the level of safety on midways at fairs, festivals and parks throughout the Midwest."

"And industry support for the event has been terrific," notes Drake, adding, "in just a matter of weeks since announcing the event, ARM (USA) Inc., McGowan Insurance, Rides 4 U, Audio Innovators, Bates Brothers Amusement Co. and Amusement Today have stepped up to become sponsors."

For more information about sponsorship, contact Eric German of the German Group at eric@germangrp.com or call (216) 410-5262.

Registration begins in mid-June. Visit safetyconf.com for more information or to register for one of the training tracks. Use @safetyconf for social media connection on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Maurer assembly area at Kirchheim branch doubled



GERMANY — In April, Maurer GmbH increased its production and storage area. Adjacent to the company's existing hall, Maurer rented additional space. The new area will offer several options with regard to optimizing series production as well as testing. The expansion helps mark a successful period for the company as it grows to meet its customers' demands. COURTESY MAURER GMBH

Looping Group digitizes safety and maintenance

DENMARK — Mobaro and Looping Group have announced a joint effort to digitally empower park staff to optimize operations and create more fun in full comfort and safety for park visitors and employees alike.

According to Charles Bennet, COO of Looping Group, a key goal in Looping Group's decision of going digital is to empower employees while improving the communication and information sharing inside the respective individual park and on a corporate level of the group.

"Mobaro will help to secure the content and the execution of safety, maintenance and operational procedures across our parks which are located in different countries," said Bennet. "Smooth digitization will eliminate filling out various paper forms, making multiple phone calls and other manual tasks."

Mobaro's full turnkey solution combines an industry specific, simple design and matured digital tool with tailored consultation by recognized experts of the industry.

"This comforts us that our teams will easily adhere and take

over a performant tool," continued Bennet. "On the longer term, we are confident that the platform will evolve, connect more and more actors and remain at the forefront with latest industry innovations and practices."

Aiming for a roll-out within the respective safety and maintenance departments on all 15 parks throughout 2019, Looping Group has high expectations and ambitions for the system including continuous organic growth of usage within various departments of each park.

"Mobaro will become the control tower of our parks' safety, maintenance and operations," added Bennet.

The implementation process was initiated with first site visits at a range parks, including Pleasurewood Hills.

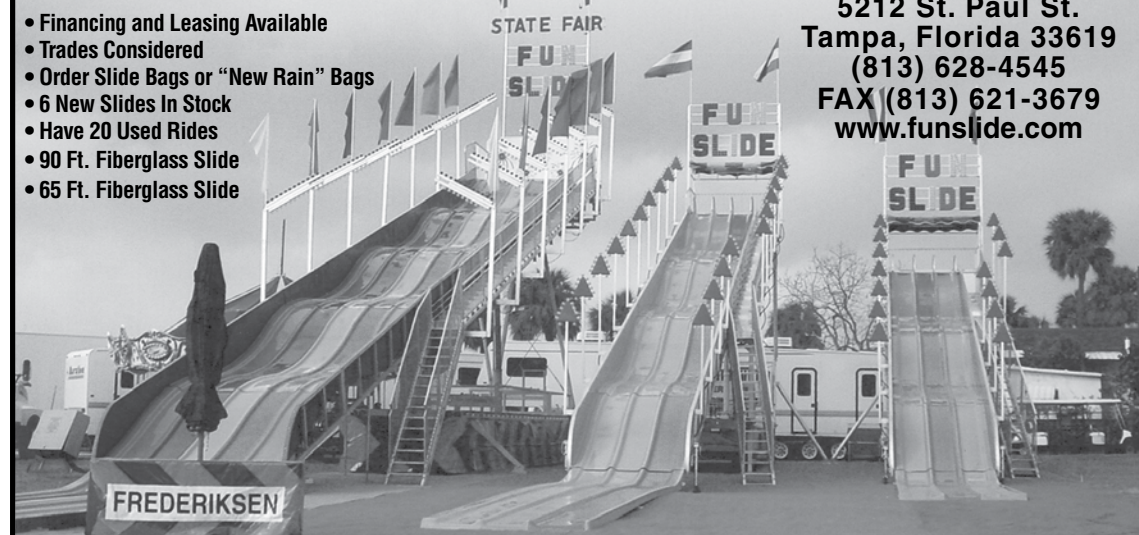
"We are thrilled to get the opportunity to work with the Looping Group team," commented Jens Holm-Møller, co-founder of Mobaro. "The amusement industry has such a high level of care for both guests and staff, we are proud that Mobaro can support safety and maintenance across the industry."

Jame Bass of Pleasurewood Hills (left) and David Bromilow (right), director parks & attractions at Mobaro, pose as the Looping Group and Mobaro joint effort begins its rollout. COURTESY MOBARO



"The #1 Leading Slide Manufacturer in America"
"World's Largest 5 Lane, One Trailer Slide - 108 Ft."

- Financing and Leasing Available
- Trades Considered
- Order Slide Bags or "New Rain" Bags
- 6 New Slides In Stock
- Have 20 Used Rides
- 90 Ft. Fiberglass Slide
- 65 Ft. Fiberglass Slide



FREDERIKSEN INDUSTRIES, INC.
5212 St. Paul St.
Tampa, Florida 33619
(813) 628-4545
FAX (813) 621-3679
www.funslide.com

EVERYTHING YOU NEED, RIGHT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

- › Touchscreen interface
- › Redundant controls (joystick & touchscreen)
- › Maintenance available onscreen
- › Remote access for troubleshooting
- › Easy to operate & train

ELI BRIDGE COMPANY
Building rides people have enjoyed for over a century.

217-245-7145 • FAX: 217-479-0103 • elibridge.com • EMAIL: info@elibridge.com



cpi amusement

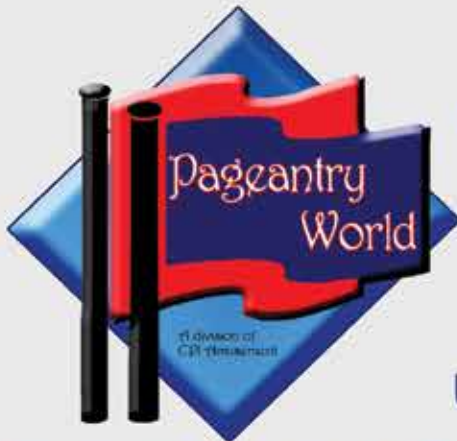
1098 Windy Hill Road * PO Box 2040 * Kyle TX 78640
PH: 512-295-2683

CPI'S DESIGN & MANUFACTURING FACILITY ALLOWS US TO CREATE A CUSTOM APPLICATION TO FIT ALL YOUR WATER AND AMUSMENT PARK RIDE NEEDS!!!



**LAZY RIVER TUBES, MASTER BLASTER TUBES, 2, 3 & 4-MAN RAFTS
BOBSLEDS, SPINNING RAPIDS & BUMPER COLLARS**

www.cpitx.com



Pageantry World

BANNERS, FLAGS, POLES, HARDWARE

US Flags, State Flags, Custom Nylon Flags, Nylon Banners, Vinyl Banners, Flutter Style Flags



**PAGEANTRY WORLD CARRIES EVERYTHING
FOR YOUR FLAG & BANNER NEEDS**

SOLD CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTION

NORTON AUCTIONEERS

THE INDUSTRY EXPERTS!

Professional Auctioneers & Appraisers

Carnivals • Parks • Carousels

FEC's • Museums • Tourist Attractions

P.O. Box 279, Coldwater, MI 49036

517-279-9063

Fax: 517-279-4899

www.nortonauctioneers.com

E-mail: Dan@nortonauctioneers.com

FOR SALE



Supplying Amusements New to Used

- Zamperla Samba Balloon.....\$29,000
- Zamperla Samba Balloon.....\$89,000
- Wisdom Orient Express.....\$89,000
- Sartori Balloon Wheel.....\$29,000
- S & S Frog Hopper.....\$29,000
- Zamperla Speedway (never used)...\$159,000
- Modern Products Mini Pirate Ship..\$20,000
- ARM Happy Viking.....\$39,000
- SBF 14m Drop Zone.....\$99,000
- Sartori Convoy.....\$19,000
- Visa Choco Cups.....\$19,000
- Majestic Wiggle Worm.....\$59,000
- Eli Bridge Kiddie Swing (T/M).....\$19,000

Call Len or Earl

(908) 526-8009

FAX: (908) 526-4535

www.Rides4U.com



CLASSIFIED ADS

► **\$20 minimum,**
up to 30 words
(\$1 per additional word)

► **DISPLAY AD: \$50 per**
column inch
(a 1-point rule will
appear around ad)

► **Due the 10th of the**
month prior to
issue date

Call Sammy
(817) 460-7220

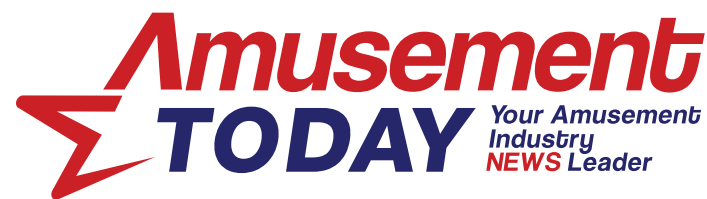
The turnstile never lies.

We make the turnstile spin.



TURNSTILE
ADVERTISING

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL JOHN SEEKER AT (214) 210-5981



2019 Golden Ticket Awards

Presented by **Amusement Today**, 22nd annual edition

Hosted by **Silverwood Theme Park** and **Rocky Mountain Construction**

Schedule Of Events

Thursday, September 5

Annual Board of Directors Meetings at the CDA Resort for:

8 a.m.-5 p.m.: AIMS International

8 a.m.-5 p.m.: National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives

Friday, September 6

Guests arrive at **The Coeur d'Alene Golf & Spa Resort**

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Registration and GTA badge pickup at CDA Resort

Enjoy downtown Coeur d'Alene,
Playland Pier Carousel or CDA Resort Spa and other amenities
or enjoy a round of golf at The Coeur d'Alene Golf Course

• **6:30 p.m.:** *Behind-the-scenes exclusive tour of*
Rocky Mountain Construction
Evening continues with dinner, drinks and live music

Saturday, September 7

• **8:30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.:** Late Registration and GTA badge pickup at CDA hotel

• **11 a.m. to 6 p.m.:** Enjoy your day at **Silverwood Theme Park!**

GTA lanyard and GTA rubber wristband are valid for
theme park admission, parking, drink, food and merchandise discounts
and a souvenir photo with Garfield.

• **11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.:** Welcome Reception and Tour of Boulder Beach Water Park
Hosted by Silverwood and WhiteWater West

• **12:00-1 p.m.:** Tour of Boulder Beach Water Park

• **1, 2, or 3 p.m.:** Don't miss these three departure times for the Silverwood Train
in special *reserved* Golden Ticket train cars, a 30-minute ride.

• **2 to 4 p.m. only:** Wristband is also valid for exit line admission to
Timber Terror and Tremors wooden roller coasters.

• **1-2 p.m.:** Choose a park tour: **Scarywood • Silverwood Culinary Tour**

• **2-3 p.m.:** **Complete Park Integration Software Presentation**

• **4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.:** **Golden Ticket Awards Dinner**
Hosted by Silverwood

• **7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.:** **2019 Golden Ticket Awards Ceremony**
at Theatre of Illusion Magic Show
Presented by Amusement Today
Hosted by Silverwood

10:00 p.m. to 12 midnight: *Amusement Today* has secured

a post-GTA networking area at the Taphouse Unchained.

GTA attendees will be in the bar area of the restaurant.

Taphouse features 24 microbrews and ciders on tap. Bar is pay as you go.

More details & registration available at

www.GoldenTicketAwards.com



***The sky is the limit ...
for the Best of the Best!***

Hosted by



**Registration for the 2019 Golden Ticket Awards
is now open at
www.GoldenTicketAwards.com!**

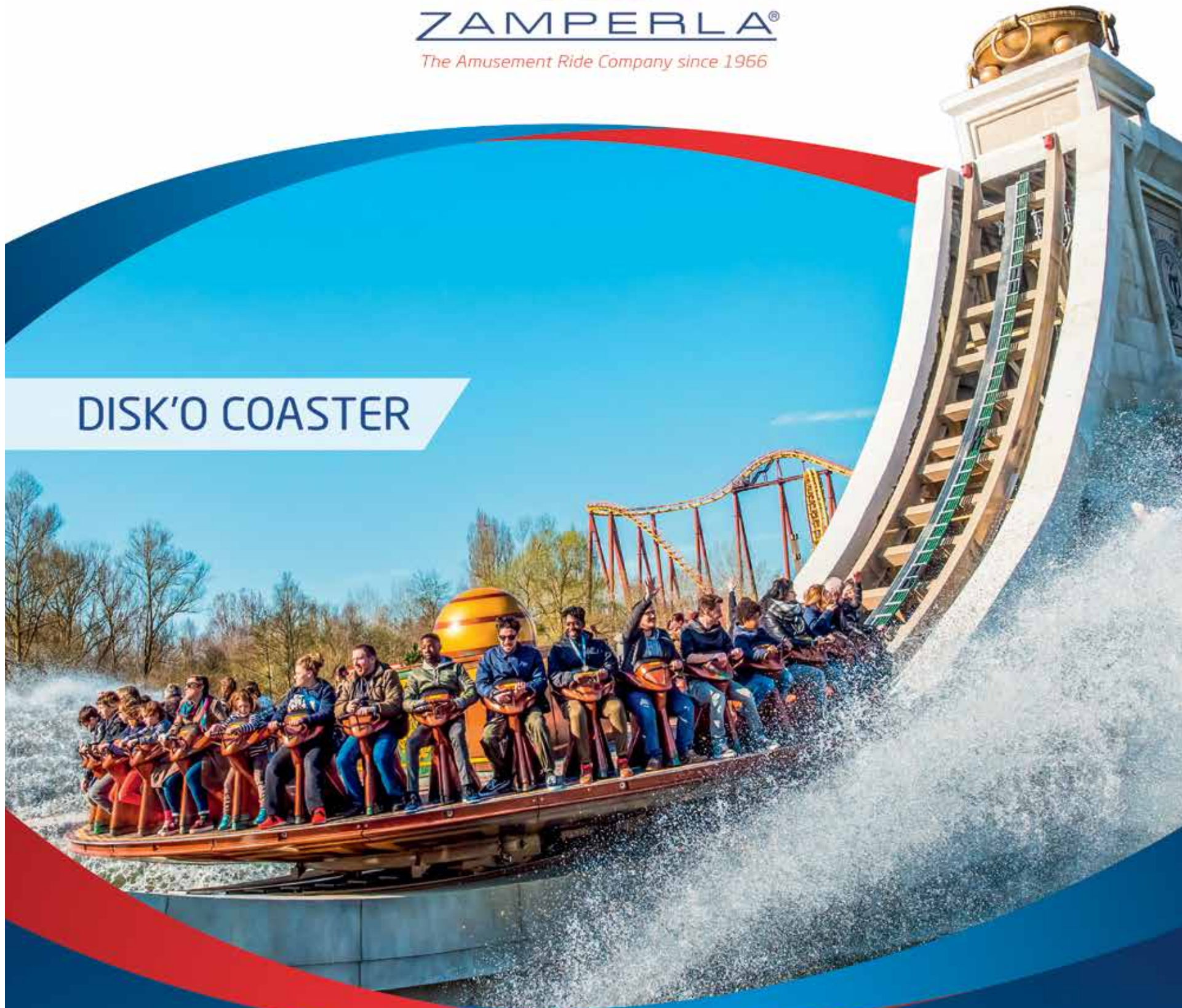
Sponsored by



INTERNATIONAL
RIDE
TRAINING



DISK'O COASTER



MUST HAVE RIDEZ

The Disk'O combines the best of a roller coaster with a flat ride and a unique patented seating style. It is a breathtaking experience that is unlike anything in the industry and a must have family thrill ride for any park.

zamperla.com

Antonio Zamperla Spa - Vicenza - Italy Phone: +39 0444 998400 e-mail: zamperla@zamperla.it